



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

Pelini
debuts
with 47-24 win

FROM SIDELINES TO HEADLINES

CODY GLENN STARS VS. WESTERN MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 | VOLUME 28 | NO. 8

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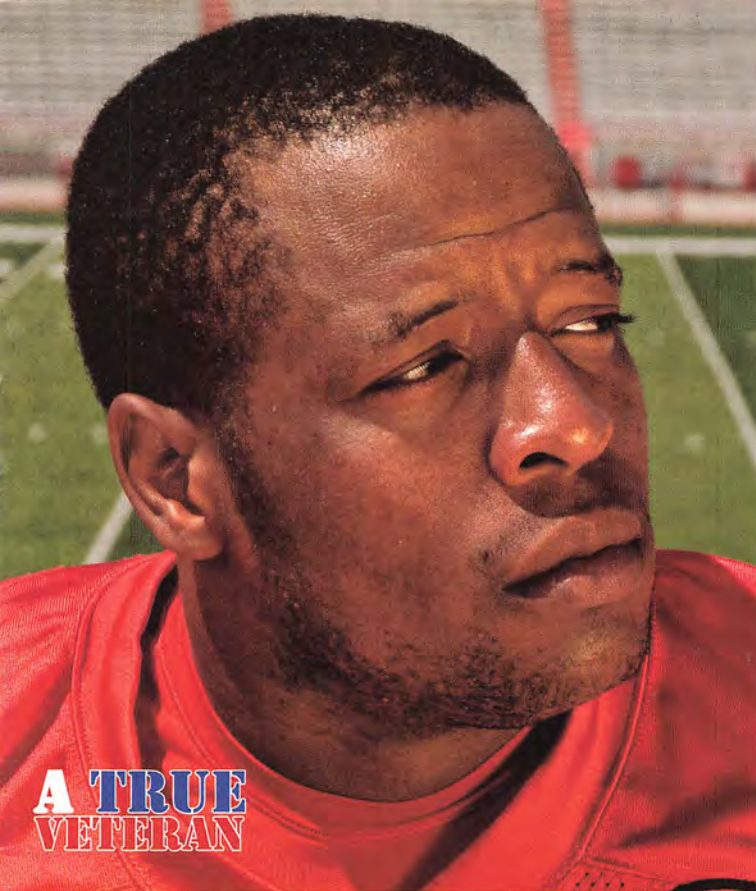
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HUSKERS

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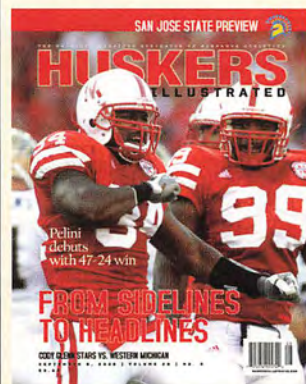
The San Jose State Review/New Mexico State Preview will be mailed on Monday, Sept. 8. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Linebacker Cody Glenn made quite the defensive debut in Bo Pelini's first game as Husker head coach. Glenn notched 12 tackles, broke up three passes and forced a fumble as Nebraska defeated Western Michigan, 47-24, in the 2008 season opener.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Glenn jumps from sidelines into Husker headlines

THE FIRST GAME of the Bo Pelini Era was definitely an entertaining one.

It was surprising to be entertained by a defense that ultimately gave up 24 points and 350 yards.

Maybe it was because Cody Glenn was running sideline-to-sideline instead of being stuck on the sideline like last year.

Maybe it was because the defense was scratching and clawing for the ball like their life depended on it.

Maybe it was because there were fist pumps on the defensive side of the ball for the first time in a long time.

There's no denying the Huskers stopped the Western Michigan rushing attack, holding the Broncos to eight yards on 25 carries – a huge achievement after giving up 232 yards per game on the ground last year.

But the thing I liked the most was seeing the ball on the turf. As you will read in the *2MinuteDrill* on page four, Pelini preaches "takeaways" to his defense. While Nebraska had just two "takeaways" with an interception and a fumble recovery, they changed plays.

The Huskers broke up eight passes, recorded four sacks and forced two fumbles. With an aggressive defense that was flying to the ball and playing with a swagger, those "takeaways" will surely come.

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of things to criticize after Nebraska gave up its share of big plays.



Consider that of the 350 yards the Blackshirts allowed, 157 came on four combined plays. Western Michigan hit pass plays of 24 and 33-yards to go along with a pair of 50-yard strikes. Obviously if you begin to eliminate those big plays, things can change dramatically.

Western Michigan also got help with three first downs thanks to NU penalties.

But the question is, will this defense improve between game one and game two?

This staff prides itself on making adjustments. They believe in making adjustments during the game and they will make adjustments from week to week.

We continue to make adjustments here at *Huskers Illustrated*. This week you'll see an exciting new look for our game coverage, which includes more notes and more photos. We have a great tradition of bringing our readers the best photos, so now we bring you even more of those great photos.

If you read just one thing in this issue, read "A True Veteran" on page 24. Tony Fahie is a model of maturity and sacrifice and truly understands and appreciate what it means to wear the Husker uniform.

As always, I encourage you to drop us a line and let us know your thoughts on the team and your latest issue of *Huskers Illustrated*. **N**

Send us your comments or story ideas to huskersillustrated@gmail.com.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 • VOLUME 28 • NO. 8

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Big Red Mailbag

SEND US YOUR LETTERS!! Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. We'll showcase the best letters each issue on these pages. Send digital photos and letters to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.



LOVE THE NEW LOOK

It's great to see the new look to *Huskers Illustrated*. The clean design just grabs your attention and jumped off the newsstand when I purchased the first edition after the makeover. The layout throughout the magazine is a welcome change and makes the publication look very professional.

Congratulations on a job well done and keep up the great work.

Pete Theoharis
Hastings, Neb.

MORE ON THE MAG

Your inaugural issue was outstanding. I really like what you've done. It has a much more professional look and feel to it now. You've really improved it. In the past few years, I've felt like *Huskers Illustrated* had gotten a little stale. I don't know whether it was the writing or just the fact that Big Red was experiencing a down period. I think with the new regime and your new approach that *Huskers Illustrated* is on the rise.

I wish you great success and I will remain an avid reader of your magazine. Good luck!

Dave Kucera
Kenesaw, Neb.

DISPLACED HUSKER

I recently received the 2008 Football Yearbook and think it is fantastic. Love the in-depth articles and enjoyed the 5

Greatest at each position story – definitely a debatable topic. As a Husker fan living out in the Washington DC metro area, it is hard to find Husker news in the local papers, but I can always count on *Huskers Illustrated* to help keep me informed. I look forward to more solid issues coming up this fall and hoping that the Pelini era can help to “restore the order.”

Chad M. Welch
Washington, D.C.

FIGHTING HUSKER FEVER

The sweltering heat of the desert has only stoked the already blistering burn that is Husker Fever. While I'm certain the fire and anticipation is no less among those who alternatively suffer in the far-North reaches, we here in Arizona are ready for the winning ways to return to the Big Red!

“Winning ways,” for most Husker fans I talk with, simply means the team's play will embody the spirit of the people of Nebraska. We are THE BIG RED and NO team will out-work us. In the early days of this reclamation project, win or lose (although we all know the preference!), Husker Nation will be content.

Expectations are and always will be high at Nebraska. Let's work to keep our expectations (as fans) in check for now, give

this staff and players a chance to personally bring the “pride of all Nebraska” back to the gridiron and surge forward, better each week than we were the last.

These guys need our support and I can't imagine, at the outset, they won't have it. The real test for us as fans, will be

if we continue to provide that support to them when that effort we ask for IS there, but the outcome may not be what we hope it might.

We will ask a lot of them; let's give them all we have in return.

Brad Shafer, '94 & '98
Phoenix, Ariz.

Cornhead Corner

definition: **CORNHEAD**, corn-head – noun

1. a person with an extreme and often unusual enthusiasm or zeal for the University of Nebraska Cornhusker athletic program. Side effects may manifest in abnormal collections of Husker memorabilia, obsessive desires to attend Nebraska sporting events and paranoid delusions that every season should result in a national championship. This compulsive behavior can be contagious and is often a serious irritant for fans of the University of Missouri or Colorado.



KEVIN HORN attended his first Nebraska football game in 1972, a 62-0 victory against Missouri. Then at Christmas (age 13) that year, his dad gave him a copy of *Bob Devaney: Portrait of a Winner*. He was hooked on Nebraska football and books about it. He collects other things related to the Cornhuskers, old newspapers, magazines and radio play-by-play recordings. But the books are his passion. He has over 100, including media guides dating to 1963. And he'll soon have a book he has written on his Cornhusker bookshelf. He expects *Memory Stadium – From Lincoln to Alliance: Growing up a Nebraska Cornhusker* to be in print and available for purchase around Nov. 1. In addition to documenting his love of Cornhusker football, “I wanted the project to serve as an inspiration to others to document their life's history,” he says.

ARE YOU A CORNHEAD? Send us your story along with a photo to huskersillustrated@gmail.com and you may be featured in an upcoming issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

2MinuteDrill

LARRY ASANTE



"TAKEAWAYS"

In Bo Pelini's coaching lexicon, the term is "takeaways" not "turnovers." The difference is instructive. "We talk about 'takeaways,' having the attitude to go take the ball from the offense," said Pelini.

Consider 2003, when Pelini was defensive coordinator. The Cornhuskers tied a school single-season record with 47 turnovers – check that, takeaways – including a school record 32 pass interceptions.

The term "turnover" puts an emphasis on the offensive team making a mistake. Pelini prefers to focus on the defense. "You get what you ask for, and we emphasize it," he said. "The first thing we talk to our guys about is effort first. That's the first thing you need to be able to get takeaways."

Takeaways depend on the mindset of the defense, "getting the right people in the right place at the right time and getting there with an attitude and a tremendous amount of effort, getting a lot of people around the ball

so you can take advantage of opportunities," Pelini said.

Defensive backs coach Marvin Sanders, who coached the secondary in 2003, tells his players "if you can't get to it and catch a pick, you've got to get there and bat it down," said junior safety Larry Asante. "Every time the ball is thrown, we've got to get there and contest it. And even if you're not there, you've got to run to the ball and get it stripped. I think that's something we lacked last year, takeaways."

Asante was understating. Nebraska managed only 11 turnovers, the fewest since 1946, when official Cornhusker statistics were first kept. The turnovers included eight interceptions, just three of them by defensive backs. Zack Bowman had one. Cortney Grixby had two.

In fact, going into this season, only three current Cornhuskers had intercepted a pass during their careers at Nebraska, and two

of the three were defensive linemen. Zach Potter picked off a pass against Texas last season. Ndamukong Suh intercepted a pass in 2006, as did safety Rickey Thenarse.

If the Cornhuskers don't improve dramatically in takeaways, it won't be for lack of emphasis. "That's something we'll always be about as long as I'm associated with this football team," Pelini said.

TOPS IN TAKEAWAY

TOP SEASONS IN TAKEAWAYS/TURNOVERS

1. 47 2003 (record 10-3)
- 47 1971 (record 13-0)
3. 45 1970 (record 11-0-1)
4. 43 1976 (record 9-3-1)
5. 42 1981 (record 9-3)

TOP SEASONS, INTERCEPTIONS

1. 32 2003 (Josh Bullocks 10)
2. 30 1970 (Bill Kosch 7)
3. 27 1971 (Dave Mason 6)
4. 23 1996 (Mike Minter 5)
5. 21 1969 (Dana Stephenson 7)
- 21 1983 (Bret Clark 5)

2MinuteDrill

NILES PAUL



NO MISTAKE: Never mind that he saw limited action in seven games as a true freshman, primarily on special teams last season, **NILES PAUL** benefited. "People said I made a mistake, but I'm definitely glad I got on the field last year," the sophomore wide receiver said during fall camp. "It was a whole learning experience being out there because if I didn't get on the field last year, I just can't feel confident enough to be out there playing with some great players from other schools (now)."

HIGH PRAISE FOR MURILLO

A measure of **ARMANDO MURILLO'S** ability is that he has been a starting cornerback since he arrived at Nebraska from Eastern Arizona Community College. That's no surprise to defensive backs coach Marvin Sanders. "Armando is one of the smartest corners I've ever been around," said Sanders. "He's right up there from an intelligence standpoint like a Fabian Washington."

Washington started at Nebraska as a true freshman and left after his junior season as a first-round draft pick of the NFL's Oakland Raiders. Sanders coached him as a sophomore in 2003.

With a cornerback the biggest



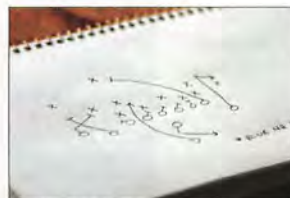
thing is his confidence," Sanders said. "You see his (Murillo's) confidence growing. He doesn't make many mistakes, he really doesn't."

Murillo, a wide receiver in high school, didn't begin studying videotape until he began playing cornerback in junior college. And he really stepped up the study when he got to Nebraska. "If you want to get ahead, that's what you've got to do," he said. "It's basically like cheating, but it's not."

Actually, it's nothing like cheating. "It's being smart," said Murillo."

ARMANDO MURILLO

SIDELINES



NO WAR & PEACE

Much was made of the bulk of former Cornhusker coach Bill Callahan's offensive playbook. It has undergone some revision under the editorial eye of retained offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**.

In the past, "we used to go in (games) with like 270-something (plays), so I'm sure it's going to be cut back," quarterback **JOE GANZ** said prior to the opener against Western Michigan. "I would say maybe like 200, maybe even less than that. So it's condensed a lot."

That doesn't mean it's easier on the defense, however. Watson "is really good at making the same play but showing it out of six or seven different looks or motions or shifts. So the core play is the same. You just show it out of different formations, with different personnel," said Ganz.

DOING ALL RIGHT

Former Cornhusker coach **FRANK SOLICH** is doing fine as head coach at Ohio University. In mid-July, his contract was extended through the 2013 season. Solich went into this season with a .675 winning percentage, 18th among active coaches with at least five seasons in the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision. Solich's record was 58-19 (.753) in six seasons at Nebraska.

2MinuteDrill



LARRY ASANTE

Haircut leaves reminder

Would you believe a skull and crossbones? Junior safety **LARRY ASANTE** had a barber shave a skull and crossbones representative of Nebraska's Blackshirts into his close-cropped hair before fall camp. "I think people think of the Blackshirt tradition and whatnot (and) they think of back in the day when Coach (Tom) Osborne was coaching and they won all those national championships," Asante said.

"I think Husker Nation tends to think that tradition is gone, that it has died away. But I think our new coach, Coach (Bo) Pelini, will revive it this year. We've just got to keep working."

The skull and crossbones were "a reminder to keep working," said Asante.

UNDER CONTROL NOW

On the day before fall camp began, doctors told **JAIVORIO BURKES** that he wouldn't be able to practice until his blood pressure was under control. "It was a really scary thing," the sophomore offensive tackle said. "It's pretty much a humbling thing when you find out what high blood pressure can do to your body. It's not something you can really feel. It's a silent killer. It can just sneak up on you."

He has known about his high blood pressure

since he was a sophomore in high school, **Burkes** said, "but I didn't think nothing of it until I really got here."

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?



JOE GANZ wore a No. 13 jersey his freshman season at Nebraska in 2004. He wanted No. 12, but sophomore **Joe Dailey** already had it, so he settled for No. 13. No problem. Then, in the spring of 2005, Ganz found a No. 8 jersey in his locker. "All of a sudden I 'requested' for my jersey number to be changed," said Ganz. The reason, junior college transfer **ZAC TAYLOR** wanted No. 13.

"The little weasel," Ganz said. "I didn't like 13 anyway. I didn't care."

Even so, it was the principle of the thing. So "Zac got off on the wrong foot with me about that," said Ganz. He and Taylor became friends, however, and still keep in touch with each other. Taylor is a graduate assistant for his

father-in-law **Mike Sherman** at Texas A&M.

To make matters worse, no one wore No. 12 in 2005. Ganz got it the next season.

"THE LITTLE WEASEL."

Zac (Taylor) got off on the wrong foot with me about that."

QUARTERBACK JOE GANZ ON FORMER HUSKER ZAC TAYLOR TAKING HIS JERSEY NUMBER.

SIDELINES



MAGAZINE HITS THE RADIO

Fans of *Huskers Illustrated* now have another avenue to get their Husker fix. The **HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED RADIO SHOW** will launch on Thursday, Sept. 4 at huskersillustrated.com.

This new show, hosted by respected talk-show personality **Christ Schmidt**, will feature Contributing Editor **MIKE BABCOCK** along with **SEAN CALLAHAN** and **JOHN TALMAN** from huskersillustrated.com.

The weekly show is free of charge and will feature in-depth analysis of the upcoming game as well as updates on Nebraska's recruiting visits and verbal commitments.



MEDIA TYPES

Former Cornhusker and NFL teammates (with the Carolina Panthers) are now working for the ESPN television network.

MIKE RUCKER (pictured) is part of Big 12 This Week, which made its debut on Aug. 21, and SportsCenterU, while **MIKE MINTER** is working Thursday shows on the network, including SportsCenterU and ESPN Recruiting Insider.

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SPORTS WRITER, SORT OF

Though **TODD PETERSON** was checking out chiropractic schools during the summer, he might consider a sports writing career. The senior wide receiver is among 22 major college football players writing weekly columns in *Sporting News Today*, a digital daily sports section produced by the *Sporting News*.

A Peterson column even made the *Sporting News* print edition dated Sept. 1.

Senior editor Derek Samson interviews him, organizes his quotes into column format and e-mails it to him for revision. "I just kind of put my own words into it more," said Peterson.

"I just make sure I don't sound like too much of an idiot."

That isn't a concern. Peterson is a three-time, first-team Academic All-Big 12 honoree.

His efforts as a sports writer can be accessed at sportingnewstoday.com. "Pseudo sports writer, I guess. I don't do too heavy of writing," Peterson said.

Three other Big 12 players are writing for *Sporting News Today* including Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel, Texas quarterback Colt McCoy and Colorado defensive tackle George Hypolite.

HANDS ARE HUGE



Playing defensive tackle requires more than strength and quickness. The ability to use the hands is "a huge, huge thing, especially in this day and age," junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** said, referring to the liberalization of holding rules, which has benefited offensive linemen.

"Holding is taken to a different level," he said.

He understands offensive linemen are going to hold him. And if an offensive lineman is moving in the same direction as he is, "moving his feet and holding you, that's not holding to me," he said.

However, if the offensive lineman is moving in the opposite direction or remaining stationary and trying to grab the defender, that's holding. And the offense should be penalized.

In any case, "when he's moving his feet and trying to stay with you, that's where your hands come in," Suh said. "You've got to do different things with your hands on top of running to the ball."

HALL OF FAMERS

Former Cornhuskers **TOMMIE FRAZIER** and **WILL SHIELDS** were among this year's inductees in the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame in Omaha. The induction banquet was held in early August. Former Husker sprinter **MERLENE OTTEY** also was inducted.

MISSING ALL-AMERICANS

Officially, Nebraska has had 92 football All-Americans throughout its history, although a case could be made for other players not among the 92. **GLENN PRESNELL** (1925-27) and teammate **LON STINER** (1925-26), for example, both earned All-America recognition during their careers from "some observers," according to *Spotlighting the Husker Greats of Yesterday and Today*, a publication of the Nebraska athletic department in 1951.

Presnell was included on the Consolidated Press All-America team in 1927. The magazine format publication indicates that **RAY BENEDICT** (1897-99) was the first Nebraska football player to earn All-America recognition from the legendary Walter Camp, the standard in the early years. Benedict, a halfback, was a third-team selection at a time when players at non-Eastern schools were ignored on the first team.

Officially, Nebraska's first football All-American as selected by Camp was tackle **VIC HALLIGAN** (pictured) in 1914. In fact, Halligan was selected by Camp for his 1915 team, the year after Halligan was graduated. Nebraska made the honor retroactive after Camp was made aware of the mistake.

In any case, the Cornhuskers' 92 official All-Americans have come from 23 states and the District of Columbia. The state of Nebraska leads the way, of course, with 37 players earning first-team All-America honors 41 times.



VIC HALLIGAN

HUSKER ALL-AMERICANS BY STATE

Nebraska	37 (41)
Texas	10 (13)
California	7 (7)
New Jersey.....	8 (5)
Ohio	5 (4)
Illinois	3 (3)
Iowa	3 (3)
South Dakota	3 (3)
Florida	2 (2)
Hawaii	2 (2)
Kansas	2 (2)
Michigan.....	2 (3)
Indiana.....	1 (2)
Missouri.....	1 (2)
Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin	
() Total awards won	

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HOMETOWN
HEROES



N

Jared Crick & Dreu Young: Cozad, NE



Jared Crick moved to Cozad from Denver just before starting middle school. But his family grew up in Cozad, so he was familiar with the area, he said. Plus, "I always watched the Huskers, ever since I can remember. You watch the guys on TV and you're like, 'Hey, I want to be like him.' I remember doing that in high school with Adam Carriker."



When Nebraska offered a scholarship, Crick didn't hesitate to accept. He didn't visit any other schools. "This is the team I've loved since I was little," he said.

Young was set to go to Colorado School of Mines on scholarship when Nebraska contacted him about walking on. He couldn't say no. And he has already earned a letter.

The south central Nebraska community has produced its fair share of Cornhuskers. The reason? "We've got a bunch of farm kids that like to bash heads, I guess," said Young.

Crick agrees. "It always seems like Nebraska expects more from Nebraska players because we're blue-collar," he said. "We're expected to work for everything because that's what we did all our lives. The expectations back in Cozad are pretty high. I'm hoping I'm making everybody back home proud." **N**

JARED CRICK

DT, 6-6, 280, Redshirted freshman

DREU YOUNG

Tight end, 6-4, 245, Sophomore

Hometown: Cozad, Neb.

County: Dawson

Population: 4,163 (2000 census)

Distance from Lincoln: 173 miles

Nebraska football letterman:

Ken Brunk, FB (1965-66)

Chris Dishman, OG (1993-96)

James Godfrey, T (1948)

Brendan Holbein, SE (1993-96)

Kelly Peterson, C (1965-66)

Maynard Smidt, HB (1963-64)

Dean Sukup, PK (1978-79)

Dreu Young, TE (2007)



SIDELINES



FAMILIAR FACES

Three former Cornhuskers are among the football interns on Bo Pelini's staff: **JOHN GARRISON** (center, 1999-02), **VERSHAN JACKSON** (pictured, tight end, 1995-97) and **DOUG COLMAN** (linebacker, 1991-95).



THE MORE THE MERRIER

It's not exactly the same as a big-budget Hollywood movie with a cast of thousands. But **BO PELINI** would like to use plenty of players this season. "We don't just want 11 on offense and 11 on defense. We want 22, 23, 24 guys. We want to play a lot of guys because it's good for the attitude on your football team," he said. "It's good for every aspect of the program. The more depth you have, the more guys you can play, the better off you're going to be because of more guys that grow with that sense of ownership. That really helps your football team. The deeper you are, the better you are."

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Quentin Castille

6-1, 233, Sophomore, I-back, La Porte, Texas

His friend back home reacted with surprise.

"Are you serious?"

Quentin Castille assured his friend he was.

"Where'd you put it?" his friend asked.

"I don't know, man, but it's gone now," Castille replied.

"It" was 25 pounds. That's about how much weight he has dropped since last season, when he played at around 255. "I can just tell it makes me a better player," Castille said. "When I see things, I can actually react a whole lot faster than I usually could. So it's helping me."

Everyone seems to agree. Running backs coach Tim Beck called him one of the biggest surprises of fall camp. "All the players, they tell me I look

good out there," said Castille, whose name was connected to those of those of Marlon Lucky and Roy Helu, Jr. with an "or" on the first depth chart.

Initially, Castille was skeptical about losing weight. He tried, to no avail. "But then I sat down and talked to Coach (Bo) Pelini. He told me to try my hardest. That's what I did. And after a couple of weeks, the weight started shedding off. I was pretty psyched about that."

He's listed at 245 pounds in the media guide. But that's too heavy.

"I can't wait to go back home now that I'm slim," he said.

HI: If someone gave you \$100,000 with the stipulation to spend it, what would you buy?

CASTILLE: The first thing I would buy is probably my mom a house, then on down the line, my grandma, sister and then look out for me. I'd be in the housing market first.

HI: What kind of music will you absolutely not listen to?

CASTILLE: Classical, I will never listen to classical music. I have listened to it, like the piano, Beethoven. I don't know, it just lulls me to sleep, I guess.

HI: Growing up, what was your favorite college football team?

CASTILLE: I didn't really look at college football teams when I was little. I just had favorite NFL teams. I'm a Dallas Cowboys fan. But college? I liked the way Texas used to run the ball.

HI: LaDainian Tomlinson or Marion Barber? Why?

CASTILLE: Marion Barber because he's just like a hard, physical runner. I actually went to LaDainian Tomlinson's football camp. I raced in the 40 against him. That's why I pretty much don't like him because he beat me. He actually dusted me.

HI: What do you think you'll be doing 10 years from now?

CASTILLE: I'll be 29. Hopefully, I'll be one of those one-out-of-100 players to make it at least four or five years in the league (NFL) and then go into a business of my own. I know it's a very hard dream for players to have. I just keep a positive image, keep working hard. Hopefully everything will pan out for me.

HI: What's your favorite television show?

CASTILLE: Besides "America's Best Dance Crew," I like to watch "Family Guy," "The Simpsons" and "American Dad." But "America's Best Dance Crew" is pretty funny.

HI: If you were a contestant on "Star Search," what would your talent be?

CASTILLE: I don't know, I'd probably be a singer, play some R&B stuff with a piano, singing at the same time. It's got to have some kind of rhythm to it.

HI: What's the best movie you've seen lately?

CASTILLE: "Dark Knight," the new Batman movie. I liked that. Besides Batman, I like the Joker. He really stood out to me a lot.

HI: What's the best thing they serve at the training table?

CASTILLE: A lot of people don't like their greens, but I love 'em. I've had greens since I was little. They don't have it every night, but they have it every so often. I make sure I check if they do.

HI: Who's the sharpest dresser on the team?

CASTILLE: I like the way Menelik Holt dresses. He's got a little swagger, a little style. It's just like urban kind of clothes. I like the dress-up stuff but I also like if a guy can show me a T-shirt with some jeans that looks good. I like that kind of stuff because it's casual.



Alvin Banks

Former Husker gives academic support

Alvin Banks noticed it immediately in 1987 upon arriving in Lincoln from Los Angeles.

"There wasn't a lot of diversity in Lincoln," he said.

So, yes, there was some culture shock.

These days, the 39-year-old Banks, a former Nebraska walk-on outside linebacker, helps Husker athletes deal with culture shock and other such issues in his role as academic counselor and coordinator of special programs for NU's Academic Performance Team.

Banks began working as an academic counselor for Nebraska in 2003 after serving two years as an assistant academic counselor. As coordinator of special programs, he provides academic, athletic, personal and career counseling to all Husker

student-athletes.

"I explain to a lot of the (out-of-state) athletes that I made the same transition they're making," Banks said. "It's the unknowns that make it difficult."

What Husker athletes typically discover in Lincoln is that "people are willing to help them out at every turn. They learn it's a safe community. And then you see that Lincoln really starts to grow on them."

Homesickness is another common issue among freshmen.

"Retaining student-athletes in that first year is one of the most important parts of our job," Banks said.

Banks, an Illinois native, graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles. The 6-2, 235-pounder was a



Husker letterwinner in 1991. He received a bachelor's degree in business management from NU in 1992 and a master's degree in vocational education from the school in 1998. Before joining NU's Academic Performance Team, Banks served six years as a police officer in Lincoln.

He's passionate about seeing young people obtain a college degree.

"We tell student-athletes, 'We know you're a great athlete, but are you going to graduate?'" Banks said. "I want to see that fulfilled. Graduating is going to be way more important than anything they can do athletically."

Banks and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Kaylie and Darius.

Catching up with BY MIKE BABCOCK

Terry Connealy

"I was a marginal player on a real good team."

It seems like only yesterday that Terry Connealy and his Nebraska teammates were celebrating the 24-17 victory against Miami in the 1995 Orange Bowl game.

That victory means a lot to Connealy, a senior defensive tackle and co-captain on that team. "If there's one thing I'm very proud of, it's that I was a part of the team that was able to win Coach (Tom) Osborne's first title, absolutely," he said. "That's very special to me."

"I was a marginal player on a real good team. So I was glad to be there."

Time hasn't diminished Connealy's modesty. A product of eight-man high school football in Hyannis, Neb., he started three seasons at Nebraska, earning first-team All-Big Eight recognition as a junior and

second-team honors as a senior. In addition, he was a two-time, first-team Academic All-American.

"The older you get and the further removed from that experience, the more you really appreciate the people and the coaches we were involved with," said Connealy.

Charlie McBride was, and is, "a great friend" as well as his position coach, he said. And "it was a privilege to play for Coach

TERRY CONNEALY

LETTERS: 1991-94

POSITION: Defensive tackle

CURRENT: Wells Fargo Private Mortgage Banking Division, Omaha

WIFE: Lisa

CHILDREN: Madison (9), Conor (4)

Osborne, wonderful man, wonderful leader, wonderful teacher."



Completing the running back class

BY RICK SHAW

The Nebraska coaching staff has made great strides towards putting together its future running back corp. In May, the Huskers received pledges from **DONTRAYEVOUS ROBINSON**, a talented every-down back from Euless (Texas) Trinity and from Omaha (Neb.) Gross fullback **C.J. ZIMMERER**.

Now, the Huskers hope to add one more rusher to the class; one that can provide a speedy change-up to the powerful Robinson (6-1, 215-pounds). Rated the No. 30 running back in the country and the No. 58 prospect in the state of Texas by Rivals.com, the talented Robinson is more of an inside runner with an ability to get the "tough yards" between the tackles. Zimmerer (6-0, 213-pounds), rated the nation's No. 20 fullback prospect by Rivals, will likely spend most of his time in Lincoln being the lead blocker for other runners.

The good news for the Huskers is that there are a few highly-touted prospects still uncommitted that have expressed genuine interest in claiming that last running back spot in the 2009 'Big Red' recruiting class.

DAVID OKU, a 5-10, 186-pound back out of Midwest City (Okla.) Carl Albert has already scheduled an official visit to Lincoln. Rated the No. 1 all-purpose running back prospect in the country by Rivals (four-stars), the Oklahoma standout will travel to Nebraska on Sept. 26.

"I've been recruited by Coach (Tim) Beck and Coach (Barney) Cotton and they are both real good guys," Oku said. "I really get a feeling that it's going to get back to the 'old Nebraska' with Coach (Bo) Pelini and Coach (Tom) Osborne



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RIVALS.COM

DALTON HILLIARD (left), a 5-11, 182-pound rusher from Honolulu favors Nebraska and Stanford despite early offers from Colorado, Notre Dame and Washington. **KNILE DAVIS** (right) is a 6-1, 209-pound runner from Fort Bend, Texas and has narrowed his choices to four schools, including Nebraska.

- when they were winning all of those championships. I'm looking forward to seeing it all."

Possessing good speed (4.49-second 40-yard dash), Oku rushed for 1,628 yards (9.0 yards per carry) and 20 touchdowns as junior, earning interest from top college programs all over the country. However, Oku has already narrowed his list of suitors down to five, including both the Huskers as well as his childhood favorite, the Florida State Seminoles.

"I'm down to a final five schools," Oku said. "I'm visiting Florida State, Nebraska, Tennessee, Louisville and another surprise school. After my last visit, I'll plan to take a few weeks to think about everything and make an announcement sometime late in the season."

The state of Texas also has a couple of

four-star backs still listing Nebraska on their shortlists. **REX BURKHEAD**, a 5-11, 190-pound speedster out of Plano took an unofficial visit to Lincoln back in April. Though several weeks have passed, he said the visit to the Husker campus is still fresh in his mind.

"The visit was awesome," Burkhead replied. "Man, they had 80,000 people at their spring game, so you can't ask for much more than that. All the facilities were pretty amazing, especially the weight room."

"It's definitely one of the best (visits) I've been on and I've been on quite a few. I've been talking to Coach (Tim) Beck and Coach (John) Papuchis. They're still interested and say I'm the type of player that they would like to have."

Burkhead, rated the nation's No. 14

all-purpose back prospect by Rivals, rushed for 1,768 yards and 29 scores as a junior. He currently claims scholarship offers from over 30 colleges, including Alabama, Auburn, California,

Kentucky, Louisville, Michigan, Nebraska, Stanford, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Virginia. The Texas athlete said he plans to narrow his list down to a top five or seven schools very soon. When he does, he admitted that the Huskers will probably be on the list.

"Nebraska will probably be in there," Burkhead said.

KNILE DAVIS is another talented runner from the Lone Star State giving the Huskers a good, long look. The 6-1, 209-pounder out of Fort Bend (Texas) Marshall has already narrowed down his list of finalists to four schools, with Nebraska being one of them.

"I've just been trying to set up official visits to Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas," Davis said. "Those are the four schools I'm still considering."

"With Nebraska, I like the fact that they run the ball, their coaching staff is good, and that I'd have the opportunity to play there. I feel that they are a program on the rise because their coaches know what they're doing."

Rated the nation's No. 14 running back prospect and the No. 16 overall prospect in the state (four-stars) by Rivals, Davis only played three games in 2007 before suffering a broken collar bone. He still managed to rush for 359 yards (7.5 yards per carry) and two scores in his limited time on the field.

"I didn't play that much last fall but I have a lot of schools pretty interested in

"MAN, they had 80,000 people at their spring game, so you can't ask for much more than that. All the facilities were pretty amazing, especially the weight room.

REX BURKHEAD ON HIS VISIT TO NEBRASKA

needed."

DALTON HILLIARD, a 5-11, 182-pound rusher from Honolulu (Hawaii) Punahou has grabbed early offers from the likes of Colorado, Notre Dame and Washington. However, it's Nebraska and a school from the Pac-10 conference that he seems to favor at this stage of the recruiting process.

"Nebraska and Stanford have probably been recruiting me the hardest," Hilliard said. "I really like Coach (Jim) Harbaugh and the rest of the coaches at Stanford. I also really like Coach (Bo) Pelini and the Nebraska staff."

"I met Coach Pelini at the LSU summer camp after my sophomore season. Soon after he got to Nebraska, I got an offer from them in the mail. It was awesome that he remembered me. It really made me want to get to know more about Nebraska."

Rated the No. 19 all-purpose back in the country (three-stars) by Rivals, Hilliard tallied over 1,500 all-purpose yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior. He said he hopes to visit Nebraska sometime during the season to experience a game day environment.

The Huskers have got off to a good start in recruiting running backs to their 2009 class. They'd like to add one more rusher to the lot and there appear to be a number of qualified candidates out there willing to listen. **N**

me," Davis said. "I think they like my size and speed (4.48-second 40-yard dash) combination. I'm pretty good at reading my blocks and finding a crease. My first preference is to try and run somebody over but I'll go around them too if

COMMITTED



FAITH, FAMILY & FOOTBALL

Whether he's on the field or off the field, Nebraska offensive lineman commit Nick Ash has three things he constantly keeps in mind.

Ash, the 6-5, 261-pounder from Keller, Texas, committed to the Huskers in late July. He attributes his success in recruiting, football, and other things to living by three principles – "faith, family, and football."

"Our head coach, Kevin Atkinson, is really about doing things right on and off the field," Ash said.

"From grade school when you would go to camps, he teaches little kids to start doing things right. Start easy – make your bed every day or doing your homework without asking. He instills the things you need to do to lead your life right."

For Ash, he says that his decision to join the Huskers had a lot to do with from having similar feelings about the coaching staff at NU.

"They want to get to know the players," Ash said. "I like that sense of family. I talked to (Matt) Slauson when I went there on my last visit. From January to when I visited in July, he felt really close to them already."

It's his high school head coach though that he gives credit to for what he's been able to accomplish and look forward to as a future Big 12 lineman.

"I've gotten to where I am by listening to him," Ash said. "He's taught me to work hard and to have mental toughness to excel."

by John Talman, Recruiting Publisher
HuskersIllustrated.com

Sunshine State Surprise

by Sean Stevens

AS FALL CAMP wrapped up, Nebraska received its twelfth oral commitment from three-star prospect **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** (6-1/185/4.47) of Corona, Calif. Martinez said that he felt at home in Lincoln.

"Well, me and my family took a trip out there ... and everything was great," Martinez said. "I knew in my heart when I got on the plane to come back that Nebraska is where I wanted to go."

Listed as an athlete by Rivals.com, Martinez will play quarterback and safety for his high school. Where he'll play in college is undecided

at this point.

"They said they liked that I'm real athletic and that they were recruiting me as an athlete. They said that most likely I'd fit in as a safety. My instincts are one of my strengths."

Martinez also received interest from Hawaii, Colorado State and Utah.

A Golden State First

Martinez is the first commitment from the Golden State in this recruiting cycle. California was a strong state for NU's former staff, and Bo Pelini's team has also emphasized the area. Along with Martinez, there are a number of Husker targets preparing for their senior years in the state.

Martinez's three-star teammate, defensive lineman **WILLIAM SUTTON** (6-1/250/4.9), is considering NU among offers from San Diego State, UNLV, Boise State, Fresno State and Nevada.

"When I got my offer, I was shocked," he said. "I've always heard that they pack in their stadium for home games - that they have a loyal fan base. Coach Bo Pelini is a great defensive coach who did some great things at LSU last year." **N**

SIDELINES

SAFETY ON RADAR

Four-star safety **DIJON**

WASHINGTON (6-0/173/4.5) of Lawndale, Calif. is also on the Huskers' radar. Washington could play cornerback or safety at the college level.

"Coach Marvin Sanders has told me that he thinks I could play early at either position," he said. "If given a choice, I prefer safety. I think I'm a more physical player. I really like being free and just playing the ball. I like hitting and at safety I get a chance to make a lot of big hits."

Washington also boasts offers from Oregon State and Washington State.

ANOTHER SAFETY

Riverside, Calif. safety **LESTER**

WHITE (6-2/205/4.48) is considering NU along with Pac-10 offers from Arizona State, Oregon State and Washington State. He plans to take an official visit to Nebraska.

"As far as favorites, everything is pretty even right now. I guess I'd give the edge to Nebraska at this point with the Arizona schools coming next," White said. "I really like the coaching staff there. I know the head coach (Bo Pelini) came from LSU and I really like the LSU defense and their aggressive style. I also like their defensive back's coach, Coach (Marvin) Sanders."

THREE-STAR TIGHT END

We talked about three-star San Diego, Calif. tight end **J.T. KERR** (6-4/230) in this space last issue. Kerr had a tremendous unofficial visit in early August and is planning to return for an official trip soon. Kerr is also considering UCLA, Oregon, Arizona and Arizona State.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIVALS.COM

2009 Nebraska Commitment List

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)

NEBRASKA 47
WESTERN MICHIGAN 24



Snappy Comebacks

After Nebraska had bolted to a 17-0 lead early in the second quarter, Western Michigan appeared to be on the verge of getting itself back into the game.

A pair of 15-yard penalties helped set up Tim Hiller's 3-yard touchdown pass to tight end Branden Ledbetter that cut the Broncos' deficit to 10 points and gave the visitors from Kalamazoo new life, while quieting the crowd at Memorial Stadium.

So much for that.

The Cornhuskers needed just four plays and 47 seconds to answer. Quarterback Joe Ganz completed a pass to wide receiver Nate Swift, who shed a tackler, maintained his balance and sprinted into the end zone for a 61-yard TD that put Nebraska ahead 24-7 with 10:14 remaining before halftime.

While noting that the Broncos never quit, Ganz said the long scoring pass to Swift was certainly a key factor in Nebraska's 47-24 victory.

"They weren't deflated by it at all, but it did take a little momentum away from their first score," Ganz said. "That's what good teams do: they answer. If the other offense scores, we need to answer somehow, and we did."

Nebraska redshirt freshman tackle Marcel Jones, who made his first career start against Western Michigan, said he could feel the Huskers' confidence soar after Swift's first score.

"It was big because we always want to come out and answer," Jones said. "Once a team gets momentum, it's really hard to stop. So we wanted to come back and



Nate Swift celebrates the second of his two touchdown catches. His first TD broke open the game, giving Nebraska a 24-7 lead.

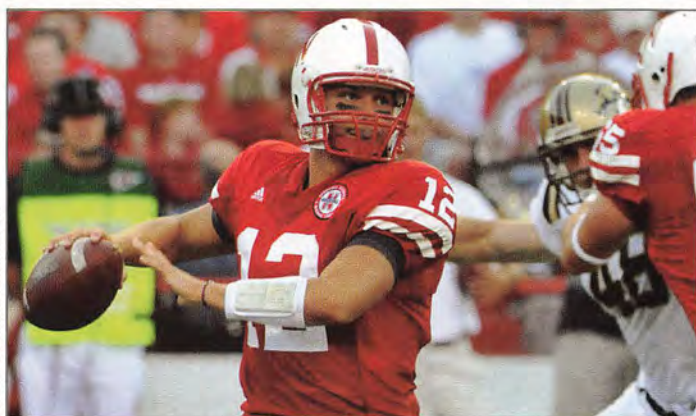
answer and let them know that this is our game and they shouldn't be in it."

Nebraska's snappy comebacks didn't end there. After the Broncos kicked a field goal to pull within 27-10 with 1:15 left in the first half, the Huskers went into their two-minute offense and produced a two-play, four-play, 37-second TD drive that covered 59 yards

and gave NU a 34-10 halftime advantage.

"We work on the two-minute drill all the time in practice," Ganz said. "We probably worked on it 15 times in fall camp, so I'm real comfortable running that and the guys are real comfortable in the two-minute drill." **N**

— by Terry Douglass



Joe Ganz became the first Husker QB to throw four straight 300-yard games.



Todd Peterson eludes a tackler after a catch.



Defensive tackle Terrence Moore sacks QB Tim Hiller in the fourth quarter.



Marlon Lucky stiff arms Western Michigan cornerback E.J. Biggers.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

C

Considering all the fall-camp chatter about re-establishing the running game and the depth Nebraska possesses at I-back and on the offensive line, 138 yards rushing was a tad disappointing. O-line injuries were a factor.

PASSING:

A-

JOE GANZ picked up right where he left off last season, setting a school record with his fourth consecutive 300-yard passing day. The senior made WMU pay for loading up the box.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

A

After finishing No. 116 in the country last season in rushing defense, allowing 232 yards per game, holding the Broncos to 8 yards on the ground represents significant progress.

PASSING DEFENSE:

D

The Huskers yielded too many big plays through the air after a stellar first quarter. An injured **ARMANDO MURILLO** at cornerback didn't help. More pressure from the front four is needed.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

B+

Only **DAN TITCHENER'S** uncharacteristic shanked punt and a 57-yard kickoff return kept the grade from being an A. **ALEX HENERY** continued to be Mr. Automatic, hitting four 44-yard field goals.



Alex Henery kicked four 44-yard field goals and improved to 12-for-12 as a Husker.



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

BO'S DEBUT, SORT OF

Officially, the game wasn't **BO PELINI'S** first as Nebraska's head coach. He was interim head coach for the Cornhuskers' 17-3 victory against Michigan State in the 2003 Alamo Bowl game. But there was no interim before the title this time. Even so, it was like any other game, he said.

Quarterback **JOE GANZ** was asked about Pelini's locker room demeanor. "It was awesome," said Ganz. "I liked it a lot. He's my type of coach. He gets fired up. I just love that type of attitude he has. He gets real emotional. He kind of calms down and gets fired up again. It's pretty interesting.

"He had some interesting words to say (beforehand); I'll just leave it at that."

PELINI ERA, FIRST PLAY

Throughout spring practice and fall camp, Pelini emphasized the importance of the running game. The Cornhuskers opened in a double-tight end alignment and I-back **MARLON LUCKY** carried on the first play from scrimmage. He was stopped for no gain.

OOOPS

Western Michigan missed an opportunity to respond to Nebraska's first touchdown when a trick play went awry. Quarterback Tim Hiller handed off to Drew Burdi, another quarterback. Burdi tossed a lateral pass back to Hiller, who pulled up to pass down the field to an open Juan Nunez. The ball slipped out of Hiller's hand, however, and out of bounds. "I just didn't get the laces," said Hiller.

NO BLACKSHIRTS

Pelini didn't pass out black practice jerseys the week prior to the game. "There's a chance I might wait for a long time, I don't know," he said when asked about a timetable. "What's a Blackshirt mean if it's just a symbol that you haven't earned? Isn't that the point? I think that's what the point is."

BLACKOUT

The Cornhuskers wore black socks, and

the student section in the southeast corner of Memorial Stadium was predominately black. Students were given black T-shirts when they picked up their season tickets. There was a smattering of black throughout the stadium as well.

GAME CAPTAINS

Instead of all-season captains, the Cornhuskers will pick game captains each week. Captains for the opener were **GANZ**, offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON**, defensive end **BARRY TURNER** and punter **DAN TITCHENER**. Nebraska last had game-by-game captains in 1959. Since then, the Cornhuskers have always had at least two all-season captains.





PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

SEEN ON THE SIDELINE

Among those on the Nebraska sideline were former Cornhusker assistants **CHARLIE MCBRIDE** and **MILT TENOPIR**. They were introduced between the first and second quarters. Former Cornhuskers **MIKE ROZIER** and **IRVING FRYAR** stood together on the Western Michigan sideline for much of the game. Fryar's son Londen is a senior cornerback for the Broncos.

PASSING FANCY

GANZ completed 20-of-36 passes for 345 yards and four touchdowns, with two interceptions. It was the fourth time in four career starts that he has passed for more than 300 yards. No other quarterback in school history has passed for 300 or more yards in four games, during his career. Ganz has thrown at least four touchdown passes in each of his career starts, the only quarterback to have done that as well.

FOUR 44-YARDERS

Sophomore **ALEX HENERY** kicked four 44-yard field goals. "He just picked up where he left off," Pelini said. "I was actually nervous going in because he's missed a couple in practice, which is unlike him. But he's a hell of a kicker and I'm glad he's on our team." The distance was a career long. Henery has made 12-of-12 field goals during his career and 50-of-50 extra-point kicks.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Nebraska's offense took a timeout just 1:33 into the first quarter as the play clock ran down. But the new NCAA rule requiring a 40-second clock to begin as soon as the ball is

spotted didn't cause the Cornhuskers significant problems, according to Pelini. "I thought they handled it well," he said. "I think it affects both sides of the football. It's an adjustment. It's a different deal."

CATCH AND RUN



Sophomore tight end **DREU YOUNG** snagged a Ganz pass for a 55-yard gain in the third quarter. "It was tough because there were two guys, swatting at the ball," said Ganz. "It's tough for him to see it and for him to come down with it. Now if he can just get a little speed, he can take it to the house." Young was among nine Huskers starting for the first time. The others: tight end **MIKE MCNEILL**, offensive tackles **MIKE SMITH** and **MARCEL JONES**, linebacker **CODY GLENN**, cornerbacks **PRINCE AMUKAMARA**, **ERIC HAGG** and **ANTHONY WEST** and safety **MATT O'HANLON**.

Jones and Amukamara started because of injuries to Lydon Murtha and Armando Murillo, respectively. Murtha didn't suit up. Murillo, however, was able to play.

QUICKLY



► **PELINI** was the fifth consecutive Cornhusker coach to win his opening game. "We're 1-0. That's what we came here to do," he said. "I said going in we weren't the finished product yet, but we're working toward it."

Two true freshmen saw action for Nebraska on special teams: linebacker **SEAN FISHER** and safety **MASON WALD**.

► The victory was Nebraska's 23rd in a row in an opening game. The streak is the nation's longest. The Cornhuskers last lost an opener in 1985, 17-13 against Florida State at Memorial Stadium.

► The Cornhuskers are now 25-3 all-time in night games at Memorial Stadium. Their only night losses at home have been against Washington (1991), Texas (2002) and USC (2007).

► Former Cornhusker quarterback **MIKE GRANT** (1989-90-92) is in his first season as Western Michigan's receivers coach.

► Fans cheered Western Michigan when it left the field. Broncos coach Bill Cubit anticipated as much. "That's kind of what we told our kids," he said. "They're great fans. It's a great place to play."

SUMMARY

SCORING

Aug. 30, 2008
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 84,485

QT	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Western Michigan	0	10	7	7	24
Nebraska	14	20	10	3	47

FIRST QUARTER

NU	Lucky 14-yard Run (Henery Kick) 08:06	0	7
	Drive: 4 plays 61 yds 1:47		

NU	McNeill Pass from Ganz 3-yards (Henery Kick) 00:55	0	14
	Drive: 8 plays 62 yds 4:24		

Second Quarter

NU	Henery 44-yard Field Goal 14:50	0	17
	Drive: 4 plays 4 yds 0:51		

WMU	Ledbetter Pass from Hiller 3-yards (Potter Kick) 11:07	7	17
	Drive: 10 plays 80 yds 3:43		

NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 61-yards (Henery Kick) 10:14	7	24
	Drive: 4 plays 73 yds 0:47		

NU	Henery 44-yard Field Goal 04:27	7	27
	Drive: 8 plays 21 yds 4:15		

WMU	Potter 19-yard Field Goal 01:15	10	27
	Drive: 8 plays 42 yds 3:02		

NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 2-yards (Henery Kick) 00:32	10	34
	Drive: 4 plays 59 yds 0:37		

Third Quarter

NU	Henery 44-yard Field Goal 08:23	10	37
	Drive: 8 plays 38 yds 3:21		

WMU	West 1-yard Run (Potter Kick) 06:11	17	37
	Drive: 6 plays 80 yds 2:12		

NU	Lucky Pass from Ganz 19-yards (Henery Kick) 01:48	17	44
	Drive: 2 plays 74 yds 0:37		

Fourth Quarter

WMU	Nunez Pass from Hiller 9-yards (Potter Kick) 14:43	24	44
	Drive: 8 plays 80 yds 2:05		

NU	Henery 44-yard Field Goal 05:22	24	47
	Drive: 5 plays 31 yds 1:46		

TEAM STATS

	WMU	NU
Total First Downs	19	24
Rushing	0	7
Passing	16	14
Penalty	3	3
Rushing Attempts	25	31
Yards Gained Rushing	49	159
Yards Lost Rushing	41	21
Net Yards Rushing	8	138
Net Yards Passing	342	345
Passes Attempted	49	36
Passes Completed	30	20
Had Intercepted	1	2
Percent Completion	61.2%	55.6%
Yards per Attempt	7.0	9.6
Yards per Completion	11.4	17.2
Total Offensive Plays	74	67
Total Net Yards	350	483
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.7	7.2
Fumbles: No-Lost	4-1	2-0
Penalties: No-Yards	5-45	6-60
Punts: No-Yards	5-181	3-113
Avg. Per Punt	36.2	37.7
Avg. Net Punt	28.0	37.7
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	3-41
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	5-139	5-102
Interception Returns: No-Yards	2-48	1-26
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-3
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	29:36	30:24
Third-Down Conversions	6-17	5-13
Percentage	35.3%	38.5%
Fourth-Down Conversions	2-4	0-0
Percentage	50.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	0-0	4-28

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Helu Jr.	7	54	2	52	7.4	0	27
Lucky	12	52	9	43	3.6	1	14
Ganz	6	47	9	38	6.3	0	32
Castille	6	6	1	5	0.8	0	2
Total	31	159	21	138	4.5	1	32

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Ganz	36	20	55.6	2	345	4	61
Total	36	20	55.6	2	345	4	61

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Swift	5	121	2	61
Holt	5	59	0	25
Young	1	55	0	55
Castille	3	38	0	31
Lucky	2	35	1	19
Peterson	3	34	0	12
McNeill	1	3	1	3
Total	20	345	4	61

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	2	38	0	28
Swift	1	3	0	3
Total	3	41	0	28

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	2	49	0	25
Asante	2	31	0	20
Gilleylen	1	22	0	22
Total	5	102	0	25

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	3	37.7	54	0	1	0	1	1
Total	3	37.7	54	0	1	0	1	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	4	4	44	0
Total	4	4	44	0

Defense	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Glenn	9	3	12	2.5-10	0-0	3	1	0
Amukamara	5	3	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Steinkuhler	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Asante	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	1	1	1
O'Hanlon	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	2	1	3	2-11	2-11	0	0	0
Turner	1	2	3	1.5-15	1-14	0	0	0
West	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Potter	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wortman	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Barfield	1	0	1	1-3	1-3	0	0	0
Castille	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grove	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Koehler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Paul	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Sievers	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
West	1	26	0	26
Total	1	26	0	26

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
West	12	32	3	29	2.4	1	7
Thompson	3	5	0	5	1.7	0	3
Elsworth	2	3	0	3	1.5	0	2
Hiller	8	9	38	-29	-3.6	0	6
Total	25	49	41	8	0.3	1	7

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Hiller	49	30	61.2	1	342	2	50
Total	49	30	61.2	1	342	2	50

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Ledbetter	9	123	1	50
Julien	5	85	0	50
West	7	40	0	16
Williams	2	28	0	19
Simmons	3	24	0	14
Stevens	1	24	0	24
Nunez	3	18	1	9
Total	30	342	2	50

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Totals	0	0	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
West	4	82	0	28
Winchester	1	57	0	57

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TD	FC	50+	In 20
Armer	5	36.2	41	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	36.2	41	0	0	0	0	0

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Potter	1	1	19	0
Total	1	1	19	0

Defense	Solo	Asst	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Delmas	5	6	11	0.5-0	0-0	1	0	0
Biggers	7	2	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pritchard	5	2	7	1-7	0-0	0	0	0
Mccornell	3	3	6	1.5-5	0-0	0	0	0
Duclo	4	1	5	2-6	0-0	0	1	0
Porter	3	1	4	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stephen	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fryar	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Marshall	2	0	2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Varcadipane	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Armer	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Armstrong	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dorcelly	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Nunez	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stevens	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Delmas	1	33	0	33
Wilson	1	15	0	15
Total	2	48	0	33

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	11:30 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 4	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 11	Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	TBA
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	TBA
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. SAN JOSE STATE



SEPTEMBER 6, 2008
IN ADDITION TO RELENTLESS HUSKER PRESSURE, SPARTANS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SEA OF RED IN ANOTHER SOLD-OUT MEMORIAL STADIUM!

FAN OF THE GAME



Eric Bendorf of Omaha helped his son, Chandler, celebrate his ninth birthday at the Nebraska Western Michigan game on Aug. 30.

THIS WEEK'S PICKS



MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor

Last Week: (3-1) Season: (3-1)

San Jose State @ Nebraska
La Tech @ Kansas
Northwestern @ Baylor
Eastern Washington @ Colorado
Miami @ Florida

NU 42-13
KU 35-7
NW 28-24
CU 38-7
FL 31-10



CURT MCKEEVER, Lincoln Journal Star

Last Week: (3-1) Season: (3-1)

San Jose State @ Nebraska
La Tech @ Kansas
Northwestern @ Baylor
Eastern Washington @ Colorado
Miami @ Florida

NU 45-7
KU 34-21
BU 21-13
CU 24-21
FLA 37-14



TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent

Last Week: (3-1) Season: (3-1)

San Jose State @ Nebraska
La Tech @ Kansas
Northwestern @ Baylor
Eastern Washington @ Colorado
Miami @ Florida

NU 44-20
KU 37-21
BU 27-13
CU 45-27
FLA 28-21



MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network

Last Week: (3-1) Season: (3-1)

San Jose State @ Nebraska
La Tech @ Kansas
Northwestern @ Baylor
Eastern Washington @ Colorado
Miami @ Florida

NU 45-17
KU 42-17
NW 27-21
CU 34-14
FL 35-20



SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com

Last Week: (0-0) Season: (0-0)

San Jose State @ Nebraska
La Tech @ Kansas
Northwestern @ Baylor
Eastern Washington @ Colorado
Miami @ Florida

NU 41-17
KU 51-13
BU 38-10
CU 44-10
FLA 34-20

EDITOR'S PICK: Aaron Babcock - Last Week (3-1) Overall (3-1)
Nebraska 51, San Jose State 17; Kansas 42, Louisiana Tech 21; Baylor 14, Northwestern 28; Colorado 28, Eastern Washington 21; Florida 35, Miami 21



Spartans take hands-on approach with QBs

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

FORGET THOSE COLORFUL

"hands-off" practice jerseys often worn by college and professional quarterbacks.

Trying to gauge toughness and see who could make good decisions under duress, San Jose State coaches allowed the defense to tackle the quarterbacks throughout spring practice this year.

The Spartans' Dick Tomey, in 28 years as a head coach, had never used that method to test signal-callers.

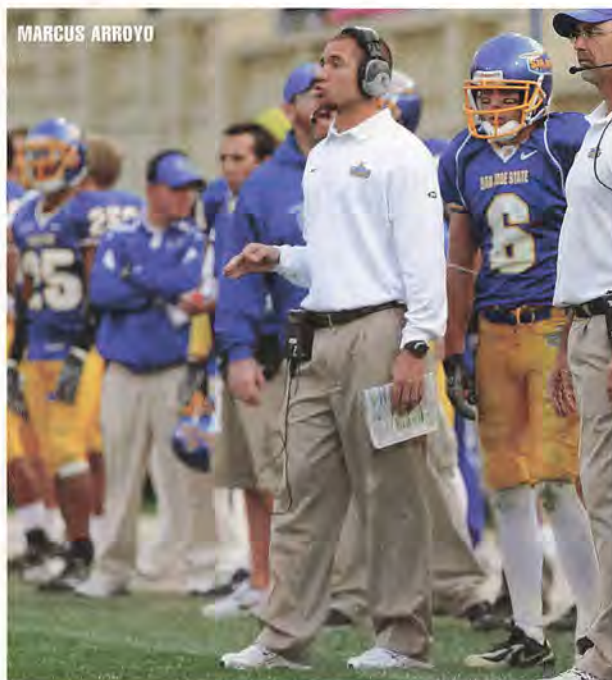
Marcus Arroyo, the team's co-offensive coordinator, had never seen it done.

"We had to see what would happen when it was full tilt," said Arroyo, who doubles as quarterbacks coach. "Having played the position, I do know this: It doesn't matter what you do in the spring or in fall camp, when you're out there for the first time in the season, it's a different deal now. So you try to get some pressure on those guys in practice and see what they do and how they react in hostile situations. The only way you do that is to light them up a little in the spring.

"We were successful with it, and I think it's something we'll think about doing again."

Myles Eden, a 6-1, 205-pound junior, emerged from a group of four leading candidates for the starting job. He has thrown only 22 passes in his college career, 13 of them in one game, but was a weapon in running situations last season as the backup to senior Adam Tafrales.

"He did a good for what we asked him to do last season,"



Arroyo said. "He did a good job this spring. And he's done well this fall in preseason camp. Hopefully he'll take care of business this season."

Arroyo took care of business as a San Jose State quarterback from 1998-2002, finishing ninth on the school's career charts in passing yards (4,603), completions (348) and total offense (4,525).

In 2000, Arroyo was San Jose State's starting quarterback when the Spartans dropped a 49-13 decision to Nebraska in Lincoln. He was 10-for-23 passing for 120 yards and two touchdowns, with one interception. He remembers well the touchdown pass he threw to walk-on wide receiver An Truong in the first quarter.

"I actually remember quite a few plays, unfortunately more bad than good," Arroyo said.

"But it was a great experience."

It was a hot experience.

"I believe it was over 105 degrees on the field," he recalls.

"It was brutal. I remember putting my cleats in ice water before each series. I remember ambulances behind our bench taking people out of the stands because they were dehydrated.

"The fans were amazing," Arroyo continued. "You guys have the best fans. I played against Virginia, Oregon, Colorado, Florida, and you guys had the best fans, the most in-tune fans to college football I've ever been around. They just know football. They're respectful. They were just awesome. That's what I remember the most."

Arroyo has climbed the coaching ladder rather quickly. The California native started



SAN JOSE STATE QUICK FACTS

Head coach: Dick Tomey (17-19 at San Jose State, 175-129-7 overall)

Enrollment: 31,906

Colors: gold, white and blue

Conference: Western Athletic

2007 record: 5-7 (4-4 WAC)

Starters returning/lost: 13/11.

Series record: Nebraska leads 1-0 (49-13 in 2000).

2008 SCHEDULE (1-0)

8/30	UC DAVIS, W 13-10
9/6	at Nebraska
9/13	SAN DIEGO STATE
9/20	at Stanford
9/27	at Hawaii
10/11	UTAH STATE
10/18	at New Mexico State
10/24	BOISE STATE
11/1	at Idaho
11/8	LOUISIANA TECH
11/15	at Nevada
11/21	FRESNO STATE

his career in 2003 as an undergraduate assistant at San Jose State and in 2004 took over as offensive coordinator at Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, Texas. Coaching in the Lone Star state made an impression on him.

"No matter which conference you're in, and no matter if you're coaching college, high school or Pop Warner, it's a different deal in Texas," he said. "If you want to be a coach, that's what it's all about. I fell in love with it.

"I wouldn't trade this job for anything in the world." **N**

COURTESY OF SAN JOSE STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

SAN JOSE STATE ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
5	Chad Bozzo	QB	6-0	215	JR
12	Jordan La Secia	QB	6-3	198	SO
7	Kyle Reed	QB	6-3	215	JR
11	Myles Eden	QB	6-1	205	JR
2	Sean Flynn	QB	6-4	220	SR
#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
74	Jackson Dallas	C	6-4	305	FR
68	Justin Paysinger	C	6-1	298	Grad
70	Robbie Reed	C	6-3	290	SO
79	Ronnie Castillo	C	6-0	292	JR
51	Matt Wigley	LS	6-2	230	JR
73	Ailao Eliapo	OG	6-2	320	SO
63	Amar Albassam	OG	6-2	315	FR
60	Ben Zorn	OG	6-3	270	FR
62	Garrett Faulconer	OG	6-7	360	JR
72	Isaac Leatioti	OG	6-4	295	SO
71	Nathaniel Timo	OG	6-0	335	JR
75	Steve Lightsey	OG	6-4	370	JR
78	Andres Vargas	OT	6-4	280	FR
77	Bradis McGriff	OT	6-6	340	SR
61	David Quessenberry	OT	6-5	240	FR
65	Fred Koloto	OT	6-3	290	SO
64	Joe Zusin	OT	6-5	310	JR
66	John Konye	OT	6-4	270	SO
59	Jon Moreno	OT	6-4	280	JR
#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
15	Brandon Rutley	RB	5-10	190	FR
39	Cameron Island	RB	5-9	187	JR
28	Chris Reese	RB	5-9	205	JR
33	Dominique Hunsucker	RB	5-10	194	JR
43	James Callier, Jr.	RB	6-0	225	SR
40	Marcos Garces	RB	5-10	176	FR
41	Phillip Knight	RB	6-1	225	JR
31	Solomon Martin	RB	5-8	210	FR
34	Yonus Davis	RB	5-7	185	SR
#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
18	A.J. Moosa	TE	6-0	200	FR
89	Brian Elledge	TE	6-3	230	SR
9	Jeff Clark	TE	6-5	250	SR
85	Julian Harris	TE	6-2	250	JR
82	Ryan Otten	TE	6-5	215	FR
86	Andrew Reyes	WR	6-1	180	FR
80	Chris Ward	WR	5-11	175	JR
8	David Richmond	WR	6-4	200	SR
88	Jalal Beauchman	WR	6-4	220	JR
84	Jordan Johnson	WR	5-10	175	FR
1	Josh Harrison	WR	5-11	170	FR
6	Kevin Jurovich	WR	6-0	183	SR
83	Khalil Paden	WR	6-1	165	FR
4	Michael Avila	WR	5-9	165	FR
81	Patrick Horan-Walker	WR	6-1	215	JR
3	Terrance Williams	WR	6-5	225	JR
#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
95	Carl Ihenacho	DE	6-3	245	JR
17	Jeff Schweiger	DE	6-5	276	SR
91	Joe Nigos	DE	6-2	260	FR
55	Keenan Brown	DE	6-3	230	FR
98	Liam Smith	DE	6-5	250	JR
49	Marcus Keli	DE	6-2	250	SR
46	Ray Rodriguez	DE	6-1	245	FR
41	Ryan McHale	DE	6-1	220	SR
50	Tracy Pugh	DE	6-4	235	FR
93	Justin Cole	DE/LB	6-3	240	JR
97	Aaron Gilbert	DT	6-3	290	JR
96	Adonis Davis	DT	6-1	295	JR
90	Jarron Gilbert	DT	6-6	280	SR
65	Judd Meadows	DT	6-3	240	FR
94	Kalvin Cressel	DT	6-4	282	JR
67	Norman Romero	DT	6-1	265	SO
92	Pablo Garcia	DT	6-2	290	FR
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
5	Alex Germany	CB	5-9	160	FR
20	Austin Carter	CB	5-10	170	JR
29	Christopher Owens	CB	5-10	170	SR
21	Coye Francis	CB	6-1	185	SR
37	Daniel Carrillo, Jr.	CB	6-1	180	FR
19	Peyton Thompson	CB	5-11	170	FR
30	Ralph Johnson	CB	5-10	175	FR
3	Roger Hinojosa	CB	5-8	170	FR
22	Andrew Ryan	S	6-0	195	SR
27	Billy Ring	S	5-8	185	JR
36	Colin Maher	S	6-1	192	JR
24	Devin Newsome	S	5-10	165	SO
16	Evan Taylor	S	6-0	192	FR
7	Jay Atkins	S	6-0	185	SO
8	Kyle Flynn	S	6-2	205	SR
23	Louis Schuman	S	6-0	200	FR
32	Pompey Festejo	S	6-0	200	SO
25	Tanner Burns	S	6-1	185	FR
40	Tiuke Tuipulotu	S	5-10	185	FR

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
15	A.J. Corbella	LB	6-0	190	FR
56	Braden Storaasli	LB	6-0	213	SO
57	Chuck Scidli	LB	6-0	223	FR
31	Dimitrious Chattman	LB	6-0	190	Grad
2	Duke Ihenacho	LB	6-1	200	SO
59	Eric Bucholz	LB	6-1	225	SO
42	Ina Liaia	LB	6-1	225	FR
45	John Smith	LB	6-0	232	JR
13	Kyler O'Neal	LB	6-0	213	FR
26	Mohamed Marah	LB	6-0	245	JR
54	Rodrick Smally	LB	5-9	205	FR
48	Ryno Gonzalez	LB	6-1	230	JR
14	Travis Jones	LB	6-1	220	JR
53	Vincent Abbott	LB	6-0	225	FR
44	Wade O'Neill	LB	6-1	225	FR
#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
35	Philip Zavala	P	6-1	200	JR
10	Jared Strubeck	PK	5-8	182	SR
16	Shaheen Pourfallah	PK	5-11	200	FR
23	Will Johnson	PK	5-8	180	JR

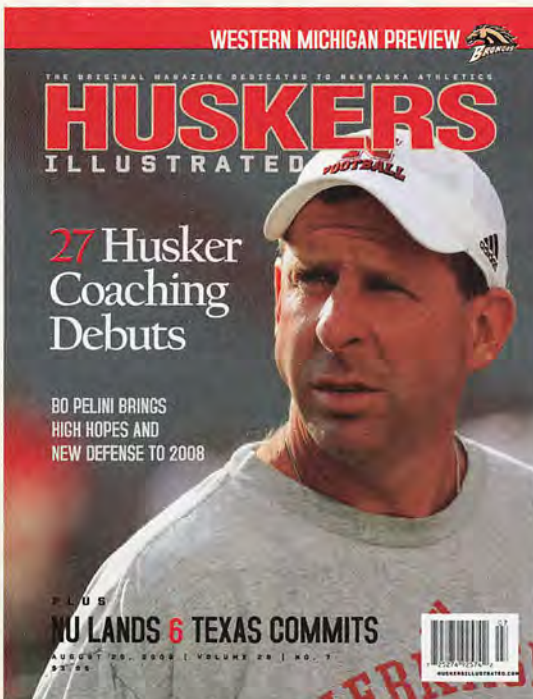
NEBRASKA TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

OFFENSE						
WR	87	Swift, Nate	6-2	200	Sr.	
	4	Holt, Menelik	6-4	220	Jr.	
	8	Will Henry	6-5	220	So.	
LT	65	Smith, Mike	6-6	285	So.	
	72	Jaivorio Burkes	6-5	325	So.	
LG	61	Mike Huff	6-4	300	So.	
	68	Keith Williams	6-5	305	So.	
C	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	290	Jr.	
	58	Mike Caputo	6-1	275	RFr.	
RG	70	Matt Slauson	6-5	320	Sr.	
	73	D.J. Jones	6-5	305	So.	
RT	76	Murtha, Lydon	6-7	315	Sr.	
	78	Marcel Jones	6-7	310	RFr.	
TE	44	Mike McNeill	6-4	240	So.	
	49	Dreu Young	6-4	245	So.	
	80	Ryan Hill	6-3	245	RFr.	
WR	17	Todd Peterson	6-4	215	Sr.	
	24	Niles Paul	6-1	210	So.	
	(or) 11	Curenski Gilleylen	6-0	210	RFr.	
QB	12	Ganz, Joe	6-1	210	Sr.	
	2	Witt, Patrick	6-4	225	RFr.	
	3	Lee, Zac	6-2	210	So.	
IB (or)	5	Marlon Lucky	6-0	215	Sr.	
	10	Roy Helu Jr.	6-0	215	So.	
	29	Quentin Castille	6-1	245	So.	
FB	36	Thomas Lawson	6-0	250	Sr.	
	45	Justin Makovicka	6-1	240	So.	

DEFENSE		98	Zach Potter	6-7	280	Sr.
		88	Clayton Sievers	6-4	255	Sr.
NT		93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	300	Jr.
		56	Shukree Barfield	6-4	290	Sr.
		90	Terrence Moore	6-3	275	Rfr.
DT		43	Ty Steinkuhler	6-3	280	Sr.
		94	Jared Crick	6-6	280	Rfr.
DE		99	Barry Turner	6-3	265	Sr.
		95	Pierre Allen	6-5	265	So.
WLB		34	Cody Glenn	6-0	235	Sr.
		40	Blake Lawrence	6-2	225	So.
MLB		52	Phillip Dillard	6-1	235	Jr.
		51	Will Compton	6-2	230	Fr.
		54	Colton Koehler	6-1	230	Jr.
BLB		53	Tyler Wortman	6-3	235	Sr.
		42	Sean Fisher	6-6	225	Fr.
RC		5	Anthony West	6-0	200	So.
		21	Prince Amukamara	6-1	195	So.
LC		6	Armando Murillo	6-0	190	Sr.
		28	Eric Hagg	6-1	200	So.
SS		4	Larry Asante	6-1	210	Jr.
		2	Major Culbert	6-0	205	Jr.
FS		3	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	195	Jr.
		33	Matt O'Hanlon	5-11	195	Sr.

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A TRUE VETERAN

Tyrone Fahie quit football and went to war twice before arriving at Nebraska.

BY TONY BOONE



S

econd-year
Nebraska
defensive end
Tyrone Fahie isn't
a big movie fan.
With football
practice and
classes, the
two-time Big 12
Academic Honor Roll student
doesn't really have time to
watch them.

He has, however, seen "Rudy," the 1993 film based on the story of former Notre Dame player Daniel Ruettinger. And Fahie (pronounced FOY) is well aware that he is living out a similar tale before the eyes of Husker fans.

Ruettinger, as most college football fans know, grew up dreaming of playing football for the Fighting Irish, but didn't have the size or grades to make it coming out of high school. After working with his father at a steel mill, Ruettinger attended junior college before transferring to Notre Dame and making the Irish's practice squad as a walk-on. He eventually suited up late in the 1975 season and recorded a quarterback sack on the final play of his only game.

Fahie is no Rudy, at least not yet. But his story, which is still unfolding in Lincoln, is starting to have its own Hollywood appeal to it.

"I can see that," the Virginia Beach, Va., native said. "It's been surreal at times."

Fahie's path to Nebraska hasn't been a traditional one.

Most current and former Huskers, even the walk-ons, were impact players on their prep teams who enrolled at the university after graduating from high school or transferred in from another college. It's safe to say Fahie is the only one in Nebraska's storied football history who gave up football to play in the band and went to war twice before joining the Huskers in his mid-20s.

"It feels right though," the soon-to-be 26-year-old said. "Certain things just came together."

When the 6-3, 255-pound Fahie went through Nebraska's open tryouts in January 2007, he hadn't played football in a decade. He had given it up after his freshman year at Ocean Lakes High School to concentrate on the saxophone.

It wasn't an easy decision. His mother, Dafney, said Tyrone changed his mind numerous times before choosing to follow in the footsteps of a musician he admired, Kansas City jazz legend Charlie Parker.

"I picked up the sax because of Charlie Parker," Fahie said. "I thought I could take that further than I could take sports because of my stature and my size."

At that time, Fahie stood only 5-7 and weighed just 160 pounds. He loved the band, but school was not a priority. In fact, he hated going to class.



His mother, a third-grade teacher, had always wanted her twin sons to go to college, but Fahie wasn't sure that's what he wanted following his graduation in 2000. He applied to some local schools that summer, but he had heard nothing back.

Fahie was working at a store near the beach when a friend stopped by to announce he had joined the Navy. Dressed in a "Navy" T-shirt and carrying a "Navy" key chain, Rashann Stroman also had a proposition for his high-school buddy.

"He said, 'Hey, I don't want to go to boot camp by myself. Do you want to go?'" Fahie said. "That was the decision right there. I was like, 'Yeah, I'll go.'"

Fahie was only 17 at the time, meaning his parents had to sign a consent form for him to join the Navy. They were vacationing in the Virgin Islands, where they were both originally from, at the time and were caught off-guard by a surprising e-mail from their son announcing his future plans.

In less than five minutes, his mom was screaming at him over the phone.

"I told my boys I wanted them to go to college then do whatever they want to do," Dafney Fahie said. "But Tyrone has always been one of those children that's had his own mind and his own way of doing things. I shouldn't have been surprised. That's Tyrone. That's how he's always been."

The Fahies cut their vacation short after receiving the startling news. Tyrone's father, Floyd, had been in the Navy for years, but he never expected his son to follow suit. The Gulf War veteran explained that the military wasn't something he could quit.

"I acted really mature about it," Fahie said. "But I was 17 years old. Of course, I didn't know what I was getting into."

Fahie left for boot camp in 2000 knowing only Stroman. But through his friend, he met Casey Sok a short time later. The St. Paul, Neb., native has been his roommate ever since.

We were processed on same day," Fahie said. "After boot camp, we were in the same class, and we got to know each other. He was always wearing a Nebraska hat whenever I saw him."

Prior to meeting Sok, Fahie knew nothing of Nebraska other than what he saw on television. That was Husker football.

"Whenever I turned on football when I was growing up, it wasn't just Nebraska winning national championships, it

by Tony Boone

was Nebraska destroying everyone they played," he said. "I've always had a love for Nebraska."

Discussing Husker football became a routine event for Fahie and Sok. While stationed in San Diego, Calif., they joined a group of Nebraska fans to watch a televised game at a local restaurant. Fahie was blown away by the emotion of the group, and the idea of playing football again began to creep into his thoughts.

"As soon as I joined the military, I stopped playing the saxophone," he said. "And I didn't actually grow until I had already joined the military. Once that happened and I had to weigh them out evenly, music or sports, football won every time."

"I regretted (the decision to stop playing football) a lot. Sure, I could go outside and throw the ball around or watch the game on TV. But I didn't want to be an armchair quarterback. I wanted to be on the sideline or on the field. I wanted to be making the plays."

Following that day in San Diego, Fahie yearned for a similar experience in Lincoln. That day eventually came, but not until after the support communicator for SEAL Team One's deployment to Iraq in 2004. A second war assignment came three months after the end of the first.

In between them, however, Sok invited Fahie to spend the 2005 Thanksgiving with his family in St. Paul. After arriving in Nebraska, the roommates visited Memorial Stadium and watched the Nebraska-Colorado game on TV.

Fahie also spoke to Tim Cassidy, Nebraska's former associate athletic director for football, about the Husker walk-on program. He and Sok made plans to attend the university in the fall of 2006, and Fahie intended to play football when they did.

"We had talked about the tryouts and how the walk-on program works," Sok said. "Then he got the info and said he was going to give it a shot. As soon as he said that, I knew he was going to make it. When you know who he is, you know he's not going to stop until he has it."

By the time the two reached the UNL campus in August of 2006, Fahie had missed the opening of the Huskers' fall camp. He worked out with fellow walk-on Aaron

Gillaspie until the following January, when they became the only two of 85 potentials at an open tryout to make the NU squad.

The former freshman linebacker and free safety from Virginia Beach spent that spring relearning how to play football as a defensive end. On April 14, 2007, Fahie fulfilled his dream of playing for the Huskers by making three tackles in the annual Red-White game.



"When I was on the sideline, I was like, 'Wow, this is unreal,'" Fahie said. "I had never been in the stadium live before that point. What you see on TV is only a fraction of what you get as far as atmosphere."

"The first tackle I made in that game, it took everything I had to not jump up and celebrate like a fool. But I just jogged back to the huddle and tried to do it again."

Fahie ended up redshirting during 2007 season, learning his new position with the Huskers' scout team. It was the first step in his multi-year plan to become an impact player at NU.

To date, Nebraska's "Rudy" has yet to see the field in a regular-season game. But Fahie is confident that, through his hard work and dedication, that day will come.

"I want to be a contributor, and I'm putting in the work," he said. "I'm not going to rush anything. Everyone's got to pay their dues to play on Saturdays. And I'm going to pay my dues every day."

"It's just one step at a time. I want to know that I'm prepared and doing the best thing for the team. If the best thing to help out the team this year is for me to help out on the scout team and play a limited amount of snaps on the field, that's fine with me. As long as I can help out this team, that's all that matters." **N**

BETSY MILLER



CROSS COUNTRY Senior fights through pain and frustration

BY TOMMY DAHLK

Runners are famous for having a never-give-up attitude and running through pain. This hallmark is what all runners want. But it really worked against Cornhusker cross country runner Betsy

Miller in 2007.

The senior from Lodgepole, Neb., suffered a stress fracture in her foot during the spring of 2007. Despite the injury, however, she kept a runner's mentality, refusing to take it down a notch and take a little time off.

This led to more and more problems during the summer.

"I got a stress fracture in my other foot

as well from coming back too soon," said Miller, who finished 31st at the Big 12 Championships and 49th at the Midwest Regional as a junior. "Both of the injuries were preventable, but I guess I learned the hard way to take care of yourself."

After the second injury, Miller finally had to face the facts. Before the season, she decided to redshirt and postpone her senior season until 2008.

Rather than having an injury-riddled senior season, the two-time, first-team academic all-conference honoree said she wanted to end her career the right way. Since the foot injuries limited her off-season training, she would have most likely ended her career with a whimper instead of a bang in 2007.

"I figured I might as well wait a year, get a

good summer of training this year and come off when I was really ready," Miller said. "It's been a frustrating year, but I'm glad I stuck with it and came back for a fifth year."

Once she decided to redshirt, she took almost a month off. The month seemed like an eternity. But after some much needed rest, she was able to run twice as much as she was able to with the foot problems. She's been able to run pain free for months, she said.

She's a captain this year – she was a co-captain in 2006 – and she said she has learned a lot from her experience.

Now, after waiting a year, a healthy Miller will get to lead a team that she thinks could be the best since she arrived in Lincoln. That scenario sounds a lot more appealing to her than running as a senior in 2007.

"We are really good this year," Miller said. "I think we can easily qualify for the NCAA Championships and finish and get a top-three Big 12 finish."

JOINING MILLER

Miller is joined as a women's team captain by senior Ari Goldstein and junior Elizabeth Marsh, while the men's cross country co-captains are senior Kyle Custer and junior Brian Parr.

Custer is the only senior on the men's team. The Cambridge, Neb., native made dramatic improvement last season, finishing 48th at the Big 12 Championships after finishing 78th the previous season. Also, his time (26:22.6) was 41 seconds faster than in 2006.

2008 WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY ROSTER

Name	Yr.	Hometown
Carrizales, Rachel	Jr.	Morrill, Neb.
Crofford, Lara	So.	Newville, Pa.
Fluitt, Michelle	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Furlan, Jessica	Fr.	Regina, Saskatchewan
Goldstein, Ari	Sr.	Soldotna, Alaska
Hamik, Erica	Fr.	Kearney, Neb.
Kelly, Katie	RFr.	Omaha, Neb.
Marsh, Elizabeth	Jr.	Wichita, Kan.
Miller, Ashley	RFr.	Tipton, Iowa
Miller, Betsy	Sr.	Lodgepole, Neb.
Pancoast, Jen	Sr.	Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Webers, Jen	So.	Conifer, Colo.
White, Katie	Fr.	Broken Bow, Neb.
Zarcenko, Natalja	Sr.	Valmiera, Latvia

HUSKER QUICK HITS HALL OF FAME

Husker track and field coach **GARY PEPIN** will be inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in December. Pepin, who is in his 29th year at Nebraska, is the all-time winningest track and field coach in Big Eight/Big 12 Conference history. His men's and women's teams have earned a combined 64 conference titles and he has coached more than 440 NCAA All-Americans. Since 2000, his athletes have won 116 Big 12 and 18 NCAA individual titles.



PAVAN REPEATS

For the second year in a row, former Nebraska volleyball player **SARAH PAVAN** was chosen as *ESPN The Magazine's* "Academic All-America of the Year" by the College Sports Information Directors

of America. Pavan, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA in biochemistry in May, was the first student-athlete to repeat as Academic All-American of the Year since the award's inception in 1988.



SPIRIT COACH

MARLON LOZANO, a volunteer assistant to the Spirit Squad since 1994, has been named the squad's coach. Lozano spent three years as a member of the Spirit Squad, as a mascot, while a student at Nebraska. Lil' Red was introduced his final year and he was one of two Spirit Squad members to serve as the original Lil' Red. The Spirit Squad included 18 members of the Cheer Squad, 14 members of the Scarlets dance team and eight mascots.

2008 WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

Sat, Aug. 30	Creighton/Nebraska-Omaha Classic, at Omaha, Neb. (Chili Greens)	9:30 a.m.
Sat, Sept. 6	BYU Autumn Classic, at Provo, Utah (BYU, Clarence F Robison Track)	11 a.m.
Sat, Sept. 20	Woody Greeno-Nebraska Invitational, Lincoln, Neb. (Pioneers Park)	10 a.m.
Sat, Oct. 4	South Dakota State Classic, at Brookings, S.D. (Edgebrook Golf Course)	11 a.m.
Sat, Oct. 18	Chile Pepper Festival, at Fayetteville, Ark. (Arkansas Cross-Country Course)	9:45 a.m.
Sat, Oct. 18	Indiana State Pre-Nationals, at Terre Haute, Ind. (LaVern Gibson Course)	10 a.m.
Sat, Nov. 1	Big 12 Championships, at Ames, Iowa (ISU Cross-Country Course)	10 a.m.
Sat, Nov. 15	NCAA Midwest Region, at Stillwater, Okla. (OSU Cross-Country Course)	10 a.m.
Mon, Nov. 24	NCAA Championships, at Terre Haute, Ind. (LaVern Gibson Course)	11 a.m.

Volleyball

SYDNEY ANDERSON

BY BOB HAMAR

New Husker setter getting up to speed

Jordan Larson is in her fourth season with the Nebraska volleyball program. She's used to all the publicity the Huskers get and the perks that come with being a volleyball player.

But it's all new to Sydney Anderson. The sophomore setter, who led Utah to the NCAA Tournament in 2006, has been surprised by things that the veteran Huskers take for granted.

Things like having fruit before a meeting. It seemed like no big deal to Larson.

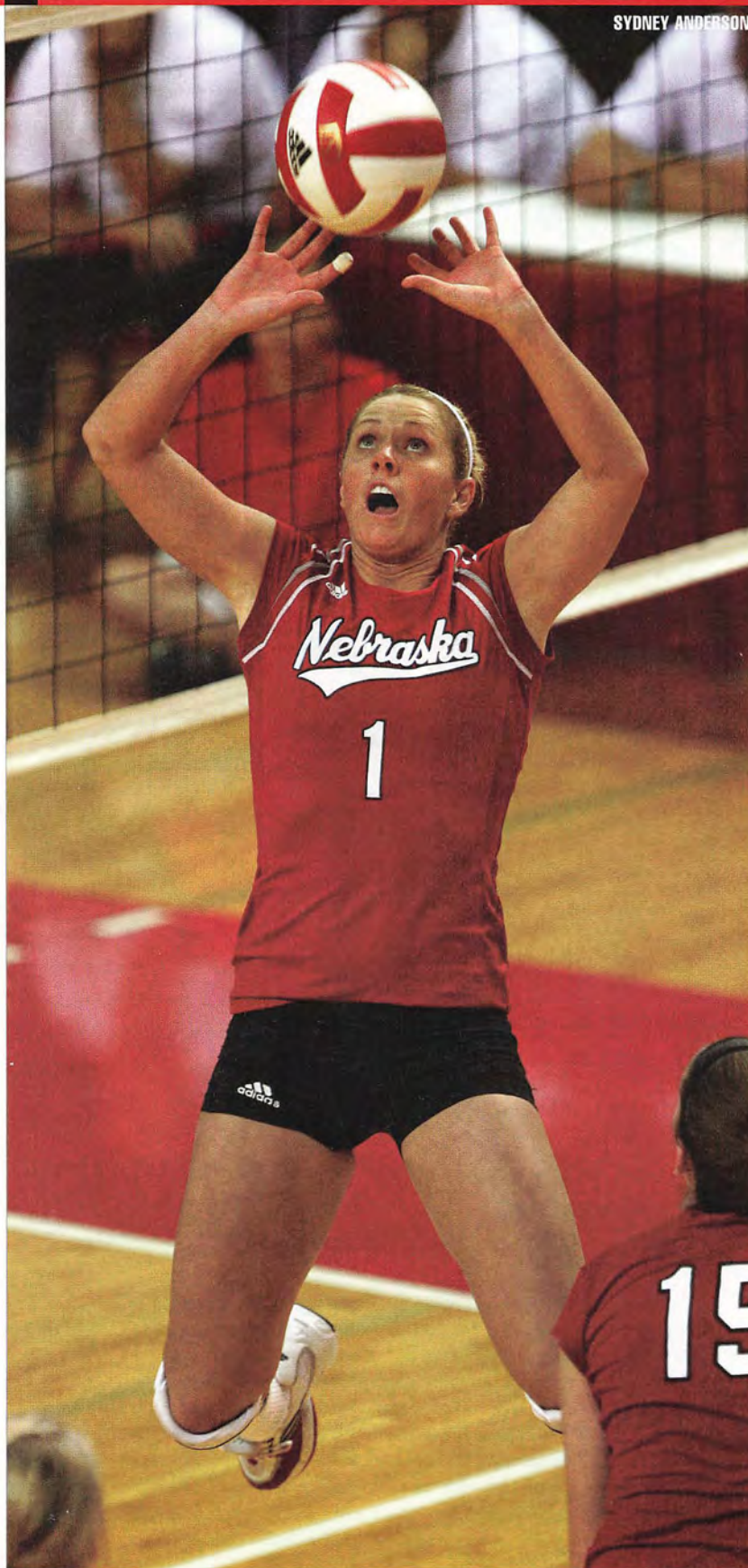
"She was like, 'Oh my gosh. There's fruit,'" Larson said. "It was like the littlest thing."

But it was big to Anderson. She is finding out that some things are different in Lincoln.

"I'm not used to having catered meals before every event," Anderson said. "We had our pregame meal and then we went down and started getting ready and there were apples and grapes and bananas. I was in heaven. I was surprised they were there."

Nebraska coach John Cook is certainly happy to have Anderson, who was already planning to come to Nebraska even before All-American setter Rachel Holloway left the program in January.

"The thing we were most excited about was her personality, what she brings as a player on the team, as a leader, as a setter, as a giver," Cook said. "Again you don't know how they will react, but we saw that unfolding the first practice."



"I LOVE

"That's really one of her greatest strengths that as coaches we were really looking for and she delivered."

Anderson certainly has noticed the support of the Nebraska fans. The 3,000 who attended the Red-White match on Aug. 23 was one of the larger crowds Anderson had ever seen. Capacity at the Utah gym was 1,100.

"It was very tight," Anderson said. "Those fans were right on top of you. That was the great part about their gym."

The volleyball is different in Nebraska too. Anderson said it's a different style with a different tempo.

"We run different defenses and different offenses," she said. "We have more sets here so I have more options to turn to. I love it. Everything we have been doing is working really well for me."

Cook said Anderson needs to get more consistent, but that will come with time. He compared her knowledge of the game to that of Nebraska quarterback Joe Ganz.

"I love using football analogies, but she's a Joe Ganz," Cook said. "She really knows the game. The kids are going to play really hard for her. She has that spirit about her that people love to be around."

"Technically and consistency, she has a lot to improve on because she hasn't played for 16 months and that's showed up at times."

Cook fully expects Anderson and the Husker offense to eventually find the rhythm they need. Every match, things should get a little smoother.

A foot injury that slowed Anderson the first few days of practice didn't help either. Anderson didn't miss any practices, but was kept out of any drills that involved jumping. She did, however, handle hundreds of passes so she got a lot of practice setting balls.

But that's not the same as actually setting hitters. Cook is looking for that connection to develop in time.

"It's a rhythm thing that just takes time in the gym to get that down," Cook said. "Each time you play Stanford or USC, you get a chance to work on that. You get to see when you're not in rhythm."

"That's just a learning process you have to go through and that's where we're behind because we didn't have her in the spring and she was out the first week of two-a-days. We're trying to speed that up as

using football analogies, but she's a Joe Ganz. She really knows the game. The kids are going to play really hard for her. She has that spirit about her that people love to be around.

Head Coach **JOHN COOK** on setter **Sydney Anderson**

much as we can."

Larson is confident that the connection between Anderson and the Husker hitters will develop eventually.

"She's been out with an ankle injury for a couple of days so it was kind of hard," Larson said. "We haven't really run our system all that much. It will come with time."

It didn't take much time for Anderson to appreciate the Husker players. She said fitting into the program was never a problem.

"These girls are so welcoming and so inviting to play with," Anderson said. "Off the court they're the same. That makes it easier for me to go out on the court and play with them."

HEADING TO CAL POLY

JOHN COOK has never liked to play two matches in a day, but that's what the Huskers will do on Friday at the Cal Poly Tournament in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The Huskers will play Northeastern at 2 p.m. Friday, then Cal Poly at 9:30 p.m. The Mustangs were rated No. 10 in the CBS College Sports/AVCA Coaches preseason poll. The Huskers will wind up tournament play with an 8:30 p.m. match against Tulane on Saturday night.

"Going to Cal Poly was important because they have come to our tournaments the past two years," Cook said. "They are the two-time defending champion in the Big West and a high-level team that is expecting big things."

HAVERLY LEAVES TEAM

Nebraska announced on Aug. 18 that **JORDAN HAVERLY**, a freshman from Cherry Valley, Ill., had left the team for personal reasons. Haverly, a 5-11 outside hitter, was rated the 20th-best high school senior last

year by prepvolleyball.com and was expected to contend for playing time this season.

"Although I have only been at Nebraska a short time, I will miss being part of such a special place and the opportunity to be a Husker," Haverly said in a statement. "My personal decision to leave Nebraska was done for the best interests of my family."

SKIPPING PRACTICE

Nebraska football coach **BO PELINI** was obviously unhappy with his team's practice on Monday, Aug. 25. That was also the first day of school for all the Husker athletes.

Cook said his volleyball team didn't practice on that opening day of classes.

"Unlike Coach Pelini, I've been coaching long enough to know don't practice on the first day of school. You're just going to get ticked off at the end of the day because it's not worth it," Cook joked. "We had Sunday-Monday off." **N**

2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, 7 p.m.
Aug. 31	*USC, 3 p.m.
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, 4 p.m.
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, TBA
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, TBA
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13	Championship, TBA
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20	Texas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 24	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Oct. 4	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Oct. 5	*Creighton, 5 p.m.
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 12	at Missouri, 1 p.m.
Oct. 15	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Oct. 29	at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Nov. 1	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals * at Qwest Center, Omaha

Men's Basketball

SEK HENRY

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

Henry, Huskers adapt to new 3-point line

When Sek Henry took his game to his hometown of Los Angeles over the summer, he adapted to a different style of play.

The summer league in which Henry played, the Say No Classic, used NBA rules. That included the NBA 3-point line – 23 feet, 9 inches at the top of the key and 22 feet in the corners.

That's 4 feet farther than what Henry, a Nebraska junior, had been used to during his first two years of college.

As a sophomore, Henry was 20-of-73 on 3-pointers, or 27.4 percent. That included a 3-of-20 stretch over the final eight games, when he started in place of injured freshman Cookie Miller.

In one game in Los Angeles, Henry was 3-of-5 on 3-pointers. He missed his other five attempts over four other games.

"It felt pretty good," Henry said of shooting from the NBA line. "When you get a little tired, you've got to use a little more of your legs, or you're going to come up short."

Henry said those games he played in Los Angeles prepared him well for a significant change in the college rules. Beginning this season, the NCAA is extending the men's 3-point line by one foot, to 20 feet, 9 inches.



"It's going to have an impact, especially for the guards," Henry said. "Now, when you play against players who can shoot threes, it's going to spread the court out a little bit more. It's not going to be so packed in like it was the previous years."

Not like when Nebraska had 6-11 center Aleks Maric clogging the lane with two or three defenders draping him.

Had the new line been installed last year, Nebraska coach Doc Sadler said it might have made a difference inside for the now-departed Maric.

"If you've got a low-post presence, that extra foot makes a big difference," Sadler said. "People have to be out there guarding you, and another foot to recover or dive on the post and double-team, it makes a big difference."

In addition to perhaps making the game less physical inside, the new 3-point line also figures to make players work on what's become a lost art: the mid-range jumper.

"I worked on my mid-range, because my mid-range game is really something that's been missing," said Henry, who averaged 20.4 points in the Say No league. "When I was playing in the Say No, my mid-range game was very, very good."

Nebraska last year was 34.2 percent from 3-point range. Ryan Anderson had the most attempts, with 156, and shot 36.8 percent. Paul Velandar had the second-most attempts, with 94, and shot 38.3 percent. Steve Harley had the team's best percentage at 40 percent on 49 attempts.

Those three players return, and three of the four players who redshirted last season also have a penchant for shooting from long range.

Sadler said Brandon Richardson, Toney McCray and Alex Chapman have the ability to boost the Huskers' perimeter game with the new 3-point line. True freshman Eshaunte Jones also could be in that group.

"I think if you've got some shooters, it's going to help you a lot," said Sadler, adding that he felt the 19-9 line was too close.

"I think eventually, in the next few years,

you're going to get used to it. But these next couple of years, you move back a foot, I think it's going to affect the game."

Richardson, who, like Anderson, was slowed by an off-season knee injury, said he's excited about the deeper 3-point line.

"People have to extend their range," said Richardson, who averaged better than 20 points per game in high school.

Sadler had the new line temporarily painted on the Devaney court after the end of the regular season so players could begin adjusting immediately.

The women's rules committee decided to keep the original line, so there will be two lines on the court once the permanent markings are completed.

"In the corner, you don't have much space," Richardson said. "Now, if you're not careful, your foot might be on the out-of-bounds line."

BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler secured an oral commitment from Jorge Diaz, a 6-11, 220-pound center from the Puerto Rican junior national team. Diaz, who's been cleared by the NCAA academic clearinghouse, can play this season.

Diaz also had recruiting interest from Indiana, Arkansas, Iowa State and Loyola Marymount.

A member of Team Puerto Rico, Diaz played in tournaments this summer in Las Vegas, where Sadler was in attendance. In four games, Diaz scored 19, 15, 18 and 10 points, and had six blocked shots in one of those games.



Husker perimeter shooters will be tested this season as the 3-point line has been extended one foot.

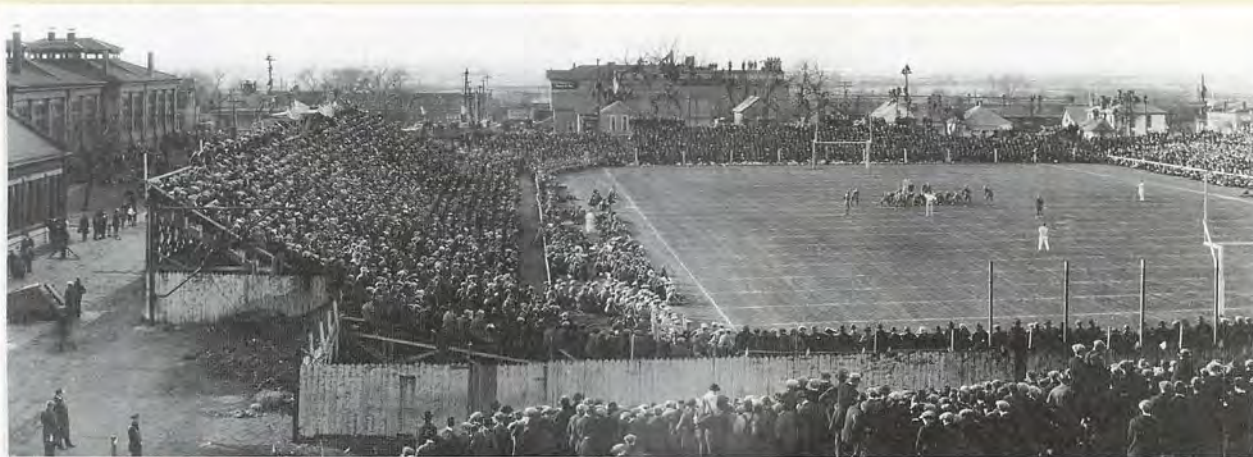
► Nebraska will face Marquette in a closed scrimmage, replacing an exhibition game this season. Marquette will come to Lincoln, with Nov. 1 as a tentative date. Nobody aside from players, coaches, managers and officials can attend the scrimmage. It's closed to media, and no score or statistics will be released.

They're going to be, I'd say, a preseason Top 25 team," Sadler said. "Some pick them to win the Big East, so just the level of competition and game speed will be really good."

► Nebraska will still have one exhibition game in Lincoln, most likely against Chadron State.

► Eric Colbert, Nebraska's team manager/player development, has accepted an assistant coaching position with Navarro (Texas) Junior College.

► Walk-on guard Andrew Wicklund of Colorado Springs, Colo., will miss the coming season after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery. Wicklund suffered the injury while working a Nebraska basketball camp in August. **N**



NEBRASKA FIELD, NOV. 30, 1922 – Nebraska Field was packed to overflowing on Thanksgiving Day. Some 15,000 filled the wooden stands to watch coach Fred Dawson's Missouri Valley Conference champion Cornhuskers play unbeaten Notre Dame, a tie with Army the only blemish on its record. The game was the last at Nebraska Field, built through the efforts of Earl Eager, a former player and the university's general manager of athletics from 1906 to 1912. The first game was played there on Oct. 23, 1909, a 6-6 tie with Iowa. Prior to that, in 1909, Nebraska had played two games at a municipal ballpark in Lincoln and one in Omaha. Before the Notre Dame game, Jack Best spoke to the team. Best, who had been at the university since 1888 and served as athletic trainer from the beginning in 1890, was in failing health. He told the players it would be the last time he would watch them. Led by Dawson, they began chanting his name, tears in their eyes. Then they went out and defeated Notre Dame 14-6. Less than two months later, Best died at age 77. Memorial Stadium was dedicated the next season.

BOB DEVANEY'S FIRST SEASON

Game 2, Sept. 29, 1962 at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Nebraska 25, Michigan 13

Nebraska	0	7	12	6	–	25
Michigan	0	6	0	7	–	13

(N) Dennis Steuwe 11 run (Jim Baffico kick)
 (M) Dave Glinka 8 run (pass failed)
 (N) Bill Thornton 1 run (kick failed)
 (N) Dennis Claridge 5 run (run failed)
 (M) Dick Rindfuss 4 run (Bob Timberlake kick)
 (N) Thornton 16 run (run failed)

Attendance: 57,254

The Michigan game was pivotal in Nebraska's dramatic turnaround under Bob Devaney, who targeted the Wolverines. He anticipated a down season in Ann Arbor. Michigan would finish 2-7. But the Wolverines carried Big 10 prestige. They were playing at home on Band Day. And they were favored. A victory in the "big house," before a crowd that was much smaller than the 70,000-plus reported in the next day's newspapers, would provide Nebraska credibility. Senior co-captain and fullback Bill "Thunder" Thornton wasn't expected to play because of a shoulder injury. But he entered the game in the second quarter and scored two touchdowns as well as making a crushing block on Dennis Steuwe's opening touchdown run.

DEVANEY: "We've got a very good football team. I felt the boys just beat Michigan in the second half after not looking too good in the first half."

DID YOU KNOW? Police estimated 3,500 fans were on hand at the airport in Lincoln to welcome the team when it returned from Ann Arbor. The highway to the airport was snarled with traffic. On the Tuesday before the game, ex-con Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson 2 minutes, 6 seconds into the first round of a heavyweight title fight at Comiskey Park in Chicago.

TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 2, Sept. 22, 1973 at Memorial Stadium

Nebraska 31, NC State 14

NC State	7	0	7	0	–	14
Nebraska	0	7	3	21	–	31

(NCS) Stan Fritts 59 run (Ron Sewell kick)
 (N) Frosty Anderson 40 pass Dave Humm (Rich Sanger kick)
 (N) Sanger 24 field goal
 (NCS) Fritts 16 run (Sewell kick)
 (N) Humm 1 run (Sanger kick)
 (N) Tony Davis 2 run (Sanger kick)
 (N) Brent Longwell 7 pass Humm (Mike Coyle kick)

Attendance: 75,925



The Cornhuskers had climbed from No. 4 to No. 2 in the Associated Press rankings and were three-touchdown favorites. But the No. 14-ranked Wolfpack of coach Lou Holtz had a 14-10 lead going into the fourth quarter on a pair of touchdown runs by Stan Fritts, who had lived in Omaha until he was 9-years-old. Steve Runty started at quarterback but was replaced by Dave Humm after throwing two first-quarter interceptions. Tony Davis rushed for 106 yards and senior middle guard John Bell, who had backed up Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Rich Glover the previous season, led the Blackshirts with 18 tackles.

OSBORNE: "People may not have been as impressed with this one. But I was more pleased with it than with the UCLA game. It was a good game for us because we learned that we can't take anyone lightly, and we learned we could come from behind."

DID YOU KNOW? Two days before the game Billie Jean King defeated 55-year-old Bobby Riggs in straight sets of the nationally televised "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match at the Astrodome in Houston. Driving to the game, Grand Funk's "We're an American Band" or Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" might have been playing on the car radio.

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

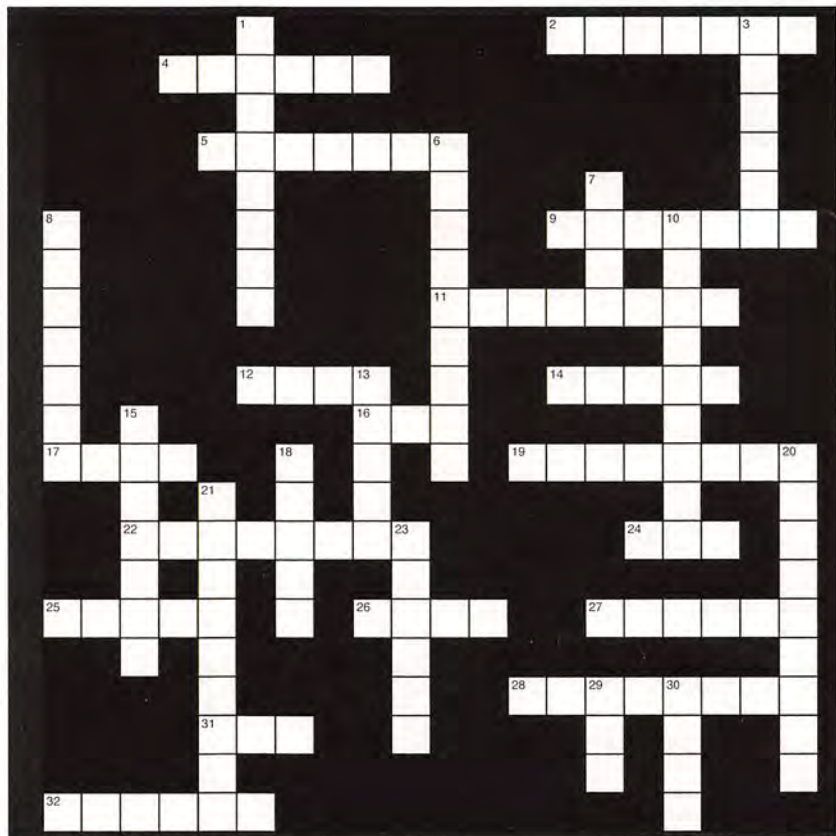
ACROSS

2. Career sacks leader
4. Voice of the Huskers
5. Wears No. 2 (defense)
9. Recruiting coordinator
11. San Jose State nickname
12. Career tackles leader
14. San Jose State head coach
16. Network for NU-Colorado game
17. Frank Solich's current school
19. Homecoming opponent
22. Wears No. 3 (defense)
24. San Jose State Conference
25. Wore retired No. 64
26. Bill Callahan's current NFL team
27. Wears No. 1 (offense)
28. Nov. 1 opponent
31. Defensive tackle from Oregon
32. 2007 sacks leader

DOWN

1. Defensive ends coach
3. 1997 Outland Trophy winner
6. First road opponent in 2008
7. Backup quarterback
8. Turner Gill's current school
10. Nate Swift's home state
13. Quarterback from California
15. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
18. NU's 2003 bowl game
20. Oct. 18 opponent
21. Barry Turner's home state
23. Linebackers coach
29. Bo Pelini's former school
30. Wears No. 4 (offense)

Answers will appear in Sept. 8 issue



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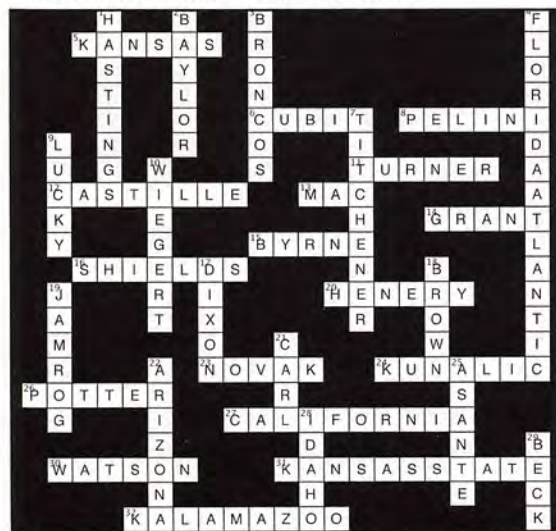
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SEPTEMBER 2 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Glenn responds in first game

THE WESTERN MICHIGAN pass was toward the east sideline, intended for wide receiver Jamarko Simmons. But Cody Glenn cut in front of Simmons and almost picked it off.

Had he held on, there seemed to be a clear path to the north end zone, about 39 yards. The former running back in Glenn surely would have kicked in. He would have been tough to stop.

As it was, he didn't look the ball into his hands, a fundamental mistake.

"I ain't never been known for my catching," he said.

Still, he was credited with a pass break-up on the play, one of three he had in the game. And when he came off the field, following the third-down play, linebackers coach Mike Ekeler sprinted along the sideline and tried to leap over linebacker Tyler Wortman to congratulate him.

Ekeler isn't one to contain his emotions. "When you mess up, he's not just going to chew you out; he's going to let you know what you did," said Glenn. "And when you do something good, he's going to come and hit you in the chest and knock the wind out of you."

Ekeler couldn't knock the wind out of Glenn this particular time, however, mainly because he couldn't make it over the 6-3 Wortman. He landed on Wortman's back, instead.

"He's a great coach," Glenn said. "I love him to death."

The "great coach" part would be difficult to dispute given Glenn's rapid development as a linebacker. Ekeler and Bo Pelini — all of

the defensive coaches, really — have done a remarkable job with Glenn.

The Western Michigan game was only chapter one. The plot is certain to take some twists and turns. But the developing story of the former running back switching to linebacker is becoming a page-turner requiring not just a suspension of disbelief but a stretch of the imagination.

Everything we believe about how complicated this game can be has been cast aside. In one spring and one fall camp, Glenn has become a snarling, sideline-to-sideline linebacker — well, maybe not snarling. But he started on the weakside and played a significant role in the Cornhuskers' 47-24 victory.

Significant? He was credited with a team-high 12 tackles, including nine unassisted and 2.5 for losses. He also forced a fumble, which Eric Hagg recovered. And he broke up the three passes.

On Western Michigan's first play from scrimmage, Glenn pulled down quarterback Tim Hiller for a 2-yard loss. And on the Broncos' third play from scrimmage, he deflected a Hiller pass.

Making 12 tackles was better than rushing for 100 yards, Glenn said. "I was like a little kid in the backyard back in Rusk (Texas), just having fun. Just having fun, that's something I haven't had in a while. That's the big thing, going out and having fun and helping my team win."

Glenn made mistakes, "like a lot of guys," said Pelini.

On Western Michigan's second possession, Glenn hit a clearly out-of-

bounds Brandon West to draw a 15-yard personal foul penalty. But "he played extremely hard," Pelini said.

Most of those in a 290th consecutive sellout at Memorial Stadium were in hopes of seeing a defense that played hard. And they didn't leave disappointed on that count.

Western Michigan's 342 passing yards were a concern, and maybe the 24 points were, too. But Nebraska's defense played with a passion that was lacking last season.

Glenn enjoyed hitting rather than getting hit as a running back. He was passionate about it. "I felt great," he said. "I feel like I could play another game right now."

Had he known how much fun he could have, "my first year I would have played linebacker," said Glenn. "But everything happens for a reason. Better late than never is how I see it."

Glenn played as if he had been a linebacker "for a while," quarterback Joe Ganz said. "That's really inspiring to see a guy make the switch and come around that quick. He's a playmaker. It's kind of sad to see him leave (the offense), but I'm glad he's over there with those guys."

Glenn "was awesome. He was an animal. He was all over the field," said Ganz.

Even so, he should have made the interception and returned it for a touchdown. So at halftime, Ganz told him he's playing defense because he can't catch the ball.

"I saw the end zone before I saw the ball in my hands," Glenn said. "I was thinking touchdown all the way." **N**

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